

Record Groups ET

State Ethics Commission

Repository:
Massachusetts Archives
220 Morrissey Blvd
Boston, MA 02125

Reviewed 2020-08-11

Record Group List:

- Massachusetts State Ethics Commission (ET1)

Record Group Descriptions and Related Series:

Record Group Number: ET1

Record Group Name: Massachusetts State Ethics Commission

Historical Note:

Conduct of municipal, county, and state employees to avoid conflict of interest is governed in Massachusetts by a Code of Ethics established successively by St 1961, c 610, s 1 and St 1962, c 779, s 1 (MGLA c 268A). Until 1978 such conduct was enforced as a criminal matter by the state attorney general and various local district attorneys.

St 1978, c 210 added a financial disclosure law (MGLA c 268B) requiring political candidates, elected state and county officials, and state employees in designated major policy-making positions to file annually a statement of financial interests and private business associations. The 1978 statute also established a State Ethics Commission (its official name) as a non-partisan independent state agency, with five members serving staggered five-year terms, selected by the governor, state secretary, and attorney general. The commission has the power to interpret and enforce the conflict of interest and financial disclosure laws. It provides free legal advice and education regarding these laws and serves as the primary civil enforcement agency for them.

Additional Description: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/145429215>

Related Series:

Designation lists, 1978-1996

Identifier: ET1/17

Extent: 19.1 cubic feet (15 record center cartons)

Arranged: Arranged chronologically by year/year span (cf. finding aid), thereunder by agency.

Notes: Changes/correspondence through 1998.

Additional Description: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/83800429>

Press releases, 1979-1992

Identifier: ET1/2400
Extent: 3.75 cubic feet (3 record center cartons)
Arranged: In two subseries:
(1) Releases relating to statements of financial interest
(2) Other;
Arranged within each subseries chronologically
Notes: Box 1: Subseries (1), 1979-1992; Subseries (2), 1979-1982.
Box 2: Subseries (2), 1983-Aug. 1988.
Box 3: Subseries (2), Sept. 1988-1992.
Additional Description: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/82111924>

Legal opinion records, 1979-2011

Restrictions: Legal opinions are considered confidential when requested, although resulting opinions may be published by the commission with all identifying information removed. Municipal opinions are similarly treated.

Identifier: ET1/2619
Extent: 125 cubic feet (100 record center cartons)
Arranged: Arranged in four subseries:
(1) Formal opinions
(2) Informal opinions
(3) Municipal opinions
(4) Telephone logs;
Arranged within each subseries by case number/chronologically
Notes: Boxes 1-27 Formals;
28-29 EC-FD formals;
30-89 Informals;
90-98 Municipals;
99-100 Telephone logs.
Additional Description: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/879597423>