



RICK WOMICK
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
34TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

House of Representatives

State of Tennessee

Nashville

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May 17, 2016

Herbert H. Slatery III
Attorney General and Reporter
State of Tennessee
425 Fifth Avenue North
Nashville TN 37243-3400

Dear General Slatery:

I am requesting your immediate opinion on the following four questions:

- 1). What constitutional, statutory or other authority exists to authorize Attorney General of the State of Tennessee to conduct an investigation of a member of the Tennessee General Assembly? To the extent that no express delegation of investigative authority exists, what precedent exists to support the existence of such authority? To the extent that such authority exists, what is the scope of such investigative authority?
- 2). What authority exists to authorize the Attorney General of the State of Tennessee to investigate alleged ethical violations by a member of the Tennessee General Assembly?
- 3). If the Attorney General of the State of Tennessee engages in an investigation of a member of the Tennessee General Assembly at the request of one or more members of the Tennessee General Assembly, do all members of the Tennessee General Assembly have a right to obtain copies of any investigative updates or reports?
- 4). If it is believed that the Attorney General of the State of Tennessee has engaged in unethical, *ultra vires*, or other inappropriate conduct, who has the standing and legal authority to investigate the Attorney General of the State of Tennessee or his staff?

I look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Womick".

State Representative
34th Legislative District

rep.rick.womick@capitol.tn.gov