

North Carolina RPO Ethics Law (June 26, 2013):

Senate Bill 411 became law. Under this legislation, TCC members are no longer covered under the State Ethics Act (GS Chapter 138A). Local government employees serving on TCC's are no longer required to comply with any of the provisions of that Act – for example, they are no longer required to file Statements of Economic Interest, are not subject to the lobbyist gift ban, and do not have to take state ethics education training.

Local officials who serve on TAC's are also removed from coverage under the State Ethics Act except for the SEI filing requirement – TAC members will still have to disclose certain economic interests annually by filing a SEI with the State Ethics Commission which the Commission will evaluate. TAC members are also subject to new ethics requirements that mirror some of the previous requirements under the State Ethics Act. These requirements are:

1. Refrain from taking action as a TAC member that will result in financial benefit to the member, the member's extended family, or a business with which the member is associated
2. Promptly disclose in writing actual and potential conflicts of interest
3. File a SEI as required under the State Ethics Act
4. Disclose certain real estate interests when filing a SEI
5. No use nonpublic information for personal financial benefit

TAC members are no longer subject to the state ethics education requirement (city and county governing board members are still subject to the local ethics education requirement that is triggered by each election and reelection), nor are they subject to the lobbyist gift ban. There does not appear to be any specific legal obligation imposed on clerks under the new law.

New members (and alternates or designees) to an MPO or RPO must file their SEI and Real Estate Disclosure Form before they take their position on the committee.

Members who have already been serving are required to file another SEI and the Real Estate Disclosure Form by **April 15th, 2014** (and every year they serve thereafter by **April 15th**). They should wait until January to file their next SEI and their first Real Estate Disclosure Form. SEI should have the 2014 SEI forms available then.

http://www.ethicscommission.nc.gov/sei/blankForm.aspx?type=MPO_RPO