

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2014-167)

James Bequette,)
Respondent.)

CONSENT ORDER

Randy Bates,)
Complainant.)

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

2014 OCT 29 PM 2:19

RECEIVED

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Complainant, Randy Bates, on June 25, 2014. The complaint against the Respondent, James Bequette, was considered by the Commission on September 17, 2014, and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to entry of the following statements of fact, conclusions of law, admission, and disposition in this matter.

STATEMENTS OF FACT

1. The Respondent, James Bequette, was a candidate for Beaufort County Council in the June primary and he was required to file a Statement of Economic Interests form (SEI) by noon on March 30, 2014.
2. On July 29, 2014 a check of the online Commission filing system revealed that Respondent had not filed the required SEI. On the same date, Commission Investigator Daniel Choate contacted Respondent to discuss the complaint. Respondent stated he would file his SEI immediately.
3. On July 29, 2014 Respondent filed the SEI. Respondent provided a statement wherein he explained that his SEI had been in save mode. He wanted to ask Commission staff a question about an entry, but forgot to make the call and then forgot to file the SEI.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Statement of Facts, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, James Bequette, was a candidate, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-1300(4)(Supp. 2013).
2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
3. Section 8-13-1356 provides that a candidate in a partisan election must file a Statement of Economic Interests by the end of the filing period for the particular office.

DISCUSSION

(Available to Respondent for mitigating information)

ADMISSIONS

The Respondent, James Bequette, admits that he inadvertently violated Section 8-13-1356.

DISPOSITION

The State Ethics Commission hereby finds Respondent James Bequette in violation of Section 8-13-1356, albeit inadvertent, of the Ethics Reform Act and hereby adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Admissions, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the State Ethics Commission hereby issues this written warning to James Bequette for violation of Section 8-13-1356 of the Ethics Reform Act,

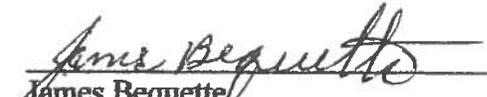
AND, orders Respondent to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 within 30 days of receipt of the signed order,

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 31st DAY OF October 2014.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



JAMES H. BURNS, CHAIR



James Bequette