



Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, TN

Legislation Text

File #: BL2022-1450, **Version:** 1

An ordinance amending Chapter 2.222 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws relative to expense reimbursement and legal representation in ethics matters before the Board of Ethical Conduct.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That Chapter 2.222 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws is hereby amended by adding the following new section:

2.222.070 - Representation and Reimbursement for Expenses.

Parties to a complaint filed pursuant to section 2.222.040(C) shall have the right to represent themselves, and to have the assistance of legal counsel at their own expense, but may not be represented by non-attorneys. If the board determines that no alleged ethics violation has occurred, the council may, by resolution and upon request of the elected official or member of a metropolitan government board or commission, reimburse such person for their legal and other related expenses, not exceeding \$15,000, incurred in defending the complaint.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

Analysis

This ordinance adds a new section to Chapter 2.222 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws, which governs the standards of conduct for Metropolitan Government employees, including elected and appointed officials and members of boards and commissions. The ordinance creates a new section related to complaints filed with the board of ethical conduct against an elected official or members of a Metropolitan board or commission.

Pursuant to the ordinance, parties to a complaint are given a right to represent themselves and to have the assistance of legal counsel at the party's own expense. If the board of ethical conduct determines that no alleged ethics violation has occurred, the Council could, by resolution and upon the request of the elected official or members of a board or commission, reimburse the individual for their legal and other related expenses, not exceeding \$15,000, incurred in defending the complaint.