

TAR AND FEATHER Act

(Transparency, Accountability, Reform — Anti-Nepotism, Disclosure, Fair Enforcement Against Theft, Ethics, Fraud, Exploitation, and Regulatory abuse)

Section 1. Purpose

To establish strong, citizen-centered mechanisms for exposing corruption, enforcing ethics, and imposing public, nonviolent humiliation on culpable officials who betray the public trust.

Section 2. Definitions

“Public official” — any elected or appointed government officer.

“Corrupt act” — bribery, fraud, coercion, misuse of office, self-dealing, nepotism, or intentional violation of ethics statutes, including any act demonstrating clear culpability.

“Public humiliation sanction” — lawful, nonviolent, expressive penalties designed to publicly expose wrongdoing and identify the culprit responsible.

TITLE I — TAR (Transparency, Accountability, Reform)

Section 3. Transparency

Mandatory public posting of all ethics complaints within 72 hours of filing, including any inculpatory evidence submitted. Officials under investigation must disclose all financial interests monthly.

Section 4. Accountability

Citizens who report corruption in good faith receive full civil immunity from retaliatory lawsuits. Any attempt by an official to retaliate triggers automatic investigation into the official’s culpability.

Section 5. Reform

Officials found guilty of corruption lose committee assignments, leadership roles, and discretionary budget authority for 10 years. Reform measures shall explicitly identify the culprit official responsible for the violation.

TITLE II — AND (Anti-Nepotism, Disclosure)

Section 6. Anti-Nepotism

Strict prohibition on hiring or contracting with family members. Violations result in mandatory public censure hearings identifying the culpable party.

Section 7. Disclosure

Officials must disclose all gifts, travel, and outside income quarterly. Failure to disclose triggers immediate suspension pending review of culpability.

TITLE III — FEATHER (Fair Enforcement Against Theft, Ethics, Fraud, Exploitation, and Regulatory abuse)

Section 8. Fair Enforcement Against Theft

Any official found to have misused public funds must repay triple damages. Names of culpable officials are added to a statewide “Corruption Registry.”

Section 9. Ethics

Ethics violations require a public reading of findings at a televised session of the governing body, including a summary of inculpatory evidence.

Section 10. Fraud

Fraud convictions result in permanent disqualification from public office.

Section 11. Exploitation

Exploitation of constituents (coercion, threats, quid-pro-quo) results in mandatory public apology delivered in person at a community forum, identifying the culprit.

Section 12. Regulatory Abuse

Officials who manipulate regulations for personal gain must participate in a Public Accountability Forum, where citizens question the culpable official directly for up to 2 hours.

TITLE IV — Public Humiliation Sanctions

These sanctions are nonviolent, lawful, and symbolic, but intentionally embarrassing:

Public Posting:

The official’s name, offense, culpability, and penalty must be posted on a state-run “Wall of Shame” website for 10 years.

Mandatory Ethics Branding:

All official communications for one year must include a notice stating: “This official has been sanctioned for corruption under the TAR AND FEATHER Act.”

Seat Relocation (Dunce Cap Clause):

The culpable official must sit in a designated “Censured Seat” during public meetings.

Public Reading:

Ethics board members publicly read the findings aloud at a televised session.

Community Accountability Appearance:

The culprit official must attend a town-hall-style event where citizens may question them directly.

TITLE V — Citizen Protections

Citizens engaging in lawful, nonviolent expressive acts of protest or symbolic condemnation receive full civil immunity. No official may sue a citizen for defamation or retaliation when the citizen acted in good faith to expose corruption or culpability.

Added Clause — Public Humiliation & Community Service Sanctions

Section 13. Mandatory Public Humiliation Sanctions (Sandwich Board Requirement)

Any public official found guilty or civilly liable — and therefore deemed culpable — for corruption under this Act shall be required to complete a period of public exposure duty, consisting of wearing a sandwich board that clearly states:

“I WAS FOUND GUILTY AND CULPABLE OF CORRUPTION UNDER THE TAR AND FEATHER ACT — OFFENSE: [SPECIFY]”

Duration based on severity:

Minor ethics violations: 2–4 hours

Moderate corruption (nepotism, nondisclosure, misuse of funds under \$10,000): 6–12 hours

Major corruption (fraud, coercion, theft of public funds, regulatory abuse): 16–24 hours

The sandwich board must be worn:

In a publicly accessible area designated by the Ethics Commission

During daylight hours

With media access permitted

The culprit official may not obscure, alter, or cover the text of the board.

Section 14. Community Service Requirements (Roadside Cleanup)

Any culpable official sanctioned under this Act shall complete mandatory community service, consisting of roadside trash cleanup, under supervision of the county highway department.

Required hours:

Minor violations: 10–20 hours

Moderate violations: 40–80 hours

Major violations: 120–200 hours

The official must wear a high-visibility vest labeled:

“CULPABLE OFFICIAL — COMMUNITY SERVICE UNDER THE TAR AND FEATHER ACT.”

Completion of community service shall be publicly logged on the state's Corruption Registry.

Section 15. Integration With Existing Penalties

These sanctions are in addition to all other penalties under the TAR AND FEATHER Act.

Failure to complete humiliation or community service requirements results in:

- Suspension from office

- Daily fines

- Referral for criminal contempt proceedings