

Sec. 742.044. The secretary of state, or any person acting on personal

knowledge and subject to the penalties of perjury, may file a complaint with the Ohio elections commission alleging a violation of section 742.043 of the Revised Code. The complaint shall be made on a form prescribed and provided by the commission.

On receipt of a complaint under this section, the commission shall hold a hearing open to the public to determine whether the violation alleged in the complaint has occurred. The commission may administer oaths and issue subpoenas to any person in the state compelling the attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant papers, books, accounts, and reports. On the refusal of any person to obey a subpoena or to be sworn or to answer as a witness, the commission may apply to the court of common pleas of Franklin county under section 2705.03 of the Revised Code. The court shall hold contempt proceedings in accordance with Chapter 2705. of the Revised Code.

The commission shall provide the person accused of the violation at least seven days prior notice of the time, date, and place of the hearing. The accused may be represented by an attorney and shall have an opportunity to present evidence, call witnesses, and cross-examine witnesses.

At the hearing, the commission shall determine whether the violation alleged in the complaint has occurred. If the commission determines that a violation of division (A) of section 742.043 of the Revised Code has occurred, the commission shall either impose a fine under section 742.99 of the Revised Code or enter a finding that good cause has been shown not to impose the fine. If the commission determines that a violation of division (B) of section 742.043 of the Revised Code has occurred, the commission shall impose the fine described in section 742.99 of the Revised Code, refer the matter to the appropriate prosecutor, or enter a finding that good cause has been shown not to impose a fine or refer the matter to a prosecutor.