



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 547**

February Session, 2026

House Bill No. 5532

*House of Representatives, April 9, 2026*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BLUMENTHAL of the 147th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS FOR REVISIONS TO THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS AND INCREASING VARIOUS MONETARY THRESHOLDS IN SAID CODES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 1-80 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (d) The board shall elect a chairperson who shall, except as provided  
5 in subsection (b) of section 1-82 and subsection (b) of section 1-93,  
6 preside at meetings of the board and a vice-chairperson to preside in the  
7 absence of the chairperson. [Six] Five members of the board shall  
8 constitute a quorum. Except as provided in subdivision (3) of subsection  
9 (a) of section 1-81, subsections (a) and (b) of section 1-82, subsection (b)  
10 of section 1-88, subsection (e) of section 1-92, subsections (a) and (b) of  
11 section 1-93 and subsection (b) of section 1-99, a majority vote of the  
12 members shall be required for action of the board. The chairperson or  
13 any three members may call a meeting.

14 Sec. 2. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 1-83 of the general statutes  
15 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
16 *October 1, 2026*):

17 (a) (1) All state-wide elected officers, members of the General  
18 Assembly, department heads and their deputies, members or directors  
19 of each quasi-public agency, members of the Investment Advisory  
20 Council and such other members of the Executive Department and such  
21 employees of quasi-public agencies as the Governor shall require, shall  
22 file electronically with the Office of State Ethics using the software  
23 created by the office, under penalty of false statement, a statement of  
24 financial interests for the preceding calendar year on or before the May  
25 first next in any year in which they hold such an office or position. If, in  
26 any year, May first falls on a weekend or legal holiday, such statement  
27 shall be filed not later than the next business day. Any such individual  
28 who leaves his or her office or position shall file electronically a  
29 statement of financial interests covering that portion of the year during  
30 which such individual held his or her office or position. The Office of  
31 State Ethics shall notify such individuals of the requirements of this  
32 subsection not later than sixty days after their departure from such  
33 office or position. Such individuals shall file such statement  
34 electronically not later than sixty days after receipt of the notification.

35 (2) Each state agency, department, board and commission shall  
36 develop and implement, in cooperation with the Office of State Ethics,  
37 an ethics statement as it relates to the mission of the agency, department,  
38 board or commission. The executive head of each such agency,  
39 department, board or commission shall be directly responsible for the  
40 development and enforcement of such ethics statement and shall file a  
41 copy of such ethics statement with the Office of State Ethics.

42 (b) (1) The statement of financial interests, except as provided in  
43 subdivision (2) of this subsection, shall include the following  
44 information for the preceding calendar year in regard to the individual  
45 required to file the statement and the individual's spouse and  
46 dependent children residing in the individual's household: (A) The

47 names of all businesses with which associated; (B) all sources of income,  
48 including the name of each employer, with a description of the type of  
49 income received, in excess of one thousand dollars, without specifying  
50 amounts of income; (C) the name of securities in excess of five thousand  
51 dollars at fair market value owned by such individual, spouse or  
52 dependent children or held in the name of a corporation, partnership or  
53 trust for the benefit of such individual, spouse or dependent children;  
54 (D) the existence of any known blind trust and the names of the trustees;  
55 (E) all real property and its location, whether owned by such individual,  
56 spouse or dependent children or held in the name of a corporation,  
57 partnership or trust for the benefit of such individual, spouse or  
58 dependent children; (F) the names and addresses of creditors to whom  
59 the individual, the individual's spouse or dependent children,  
60 individually, owed debts of more than ten thousand dollars; (G) any  
61 leases or contracts with the state or a quasi-public agency held or  
62 entered into by the individual or a business with which he or she was  
63 associated; and (H) the name of any of the following that is a partner or  
64 owner of, or has a similar business affiliation with, the business included  
65 under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision: (i) Any lobbyist, (ii) any  
66 person the individual filing the statement knows or has reason to know  
67 is doing business with or seeking to do business with the state or is  
68 engaged in activities that are directly regulated by the department or  
69 agency in which the individual is employed, or (iii) any business with  
70 which such lobbyist or person is associated.

71 (2) In the case of securities in excess of five thousand dollars at fair  
72 market value held within (A) a retirement savings plan, as described in  
73 Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent  
74 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended  
75 from time to time, (B) a tax-sheltered annuity retirement plan, as  
76 described in Section 403 of said Internal Revenue Code, (C) a payroll  
77 deduction individual retirement account plan, as described in Section  
78 408 or 408A of said Internal Revenue Code, [(C)] (D) a governmental  
79 deferred compensation plan, as described in Section 457 of said Internal  
80 Revenue Code, or [(D)] (E) an education savings plan, as described in  
81 Section 529 of said Internal Revenue Code, the names of such securities

82 shall not be required to be disclosed in any statement of financial  
83 interests and only the name of such retirement savings plan, tax-  
84 sheltered annuity retirement plan, individual retirement account plan,  
85 deferred compensation plan or education savings plan holding such  
86 securities shall be required.

87 Sec. 3. Section 1-84 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is  
88 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
89 *1, 2026*):

90 (a) No public official or state employee shall, while serving as such,  
91 have any financial interest in, or engage in, any business, employment,  
92 transaction or professional activity, which is in substantial conflict with  
93 the proper discharge of [his] such official's or employee's duties or  
94 employment in the public interest and of [his] such official's or  
95 employee's responsibilities as prescribed in the laws of this state, as  
96 defined in section 1-85, as amended by this act.

97 (b) No public official or state employee shall accept other  
98 employment which will either impair [his] such official's or employee's  
99 independence of judgment as to [his] such official's or employee's  
100 official duties or employment or require [him, or induce him] or induce  
101 such official or employee, to disclose confidential information acquired  
102 by [him] such official or employee in the course of and by reason of [his]  
103 such official's or employee's official duties.

104 (c) No public official or state employee shall wilfully and knowingly  
105 disclose, for financial gain, to any other person, confidential information  
106 acquired by [him] such official or employee in the course of and by  
107 reason of [his] such official's or employee's official duties or  
108 employment and no public official or state employee shall use [his] such  
109 official's or employee's public office or position or any confidential  
110 information received through [his] such official's or employee's holding  
111 such public office or position to obtain financial gain for [himself, his]  
112 such official or employee, such official's or employee's spouse, child,  
113 child's spouse, parent, brother or sister or a business with which he is  
114 associated.

115 (d) No public official or state employee or employee of such public  
116 official or state employee shall agree to accept, or be a member or  
117 employee of a partnership, association, professional corporation or sole  
118 proprietorship which partnership, association, professional corporation  
119 or sole proprietorship agrees to accept any employment, fee or other  
120 thing of value, or portion thereof, for appearing, agreeing to appear, or  
121 taking any other action on behalf of another person before the  
122 Department of Banking, the Office of the Claims Commissioner, the  
123 Health Systems Planning Unit of the Office of Health Strategy, the  
124 Insurance Department, the Department of Consumer Protection, the  
125 Department of Motor Vehicles, the State Insurance and Risk  
126 Management Board, the Department of Energy and Environmental  
127 Protection, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, the Connecticut  
128 Siting Council or the Connecticut Real Estate Commission; provided  
129 this shall not prohibit any such person from making inquiry for  
130 information on behalf of another before any of said commissions or  
131 commissioners if no fee or reward is given or promised in consequence  
132 thereof. For the purpose of this subsection, partnerships, associations,  
133 professional corporations or sole proprietorships refer only to such  
134 partnerships, associations, professional corporations or sole  
135 proprietorships which have been formed to carry on the business or  
136 profession directly relating to the employment, appearing, agreeing to  
137 appear or taking of action provided for in this subsection. Nothing in  
138 this subsection shall prohibit any employment, appearing, agreeing to  
139 appear or taking action before any municipal board, commission or  
140 council. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as applying (1) to  
141 the actions of any teaching or research professional employee of a public  
142 institution of higher education if such actions are not in violation of any  
143 other provision of this chapter, (2) to the actions of any other  
144 professional employee of a public institution of higher education if such  
145 actions are not compensated and are not in violation of any other  
146 provision of this chapter, (3) to any member of a board or commission  
147 who receives no compensation other than per diem payments or  
148 reimbursement for actual or necessary expenses, or both, incurred in the  
149 performance of the member's duties, or (4) to any member or director of

150 a quasi-public agency. Notwithstanding the provisions of this  
151 subsection to the contrary, a legislator, an officer of the General  
152 Assembly or part-time legislative employee may be or become a  
153 member or employee of a firm, partnership, association or professional  
154 corporation which represents clients for compensation before agencies  
155 listed in this subsection, provided the legislator, officer of the General  
156 Assembly or part-time legislative employee shall take no part in any  
157 matter involving the agency listed in this subsection and shall not  
158 receive compensation from any such matter. Receipt of a previously  
159 established salary, not based on the current or anticipated business of  
160 the firm, partnership, association or professional corporation involving  
161 the agencies listed in this subsection, shall be permitted.

162 (e) No legislative commissioner or [his] the legislative  
163 commissioner's partners, employees or associates shall represent any  
164 person subject to the provisions of part II concerning the promotion of  
165 or opposition to legislation before the General Assembly, or accept any  
166 employment which includes an agreement or understanding to  
167 influence, or which is inconsistent with, the performance of [his] the  
168 legislative commissioner's official duties.

169 (f) No person shall offer or give to a public official or state employee  
170 or candidate for public office or [his] such official's or employee's  
171 spouse, [his] parent, brother, sister or child or the spouse of such child  
172 or a business with which he is associated, anything of value, including,  
173 but not limited to, a gift, loan, political contribution, reward or promise  
174 of future employment based on any understanding that the vote, official  
175 action or judgment of the public official, state employee or candidate for  
176 public office would be or had been influenced thereby.

177 (g) No public official or state employee or candidate for public office  
178 shall solicit or accept anything of value, including but not limited to, a  
179 gift, loan, political contribution, reward or promise of future  
180 employment based on any understanding that the vote, official action  
181 or judgment of the public official or state employee or candidate for  
182 public office would be or had been influenced thereby.

183 (h) Nothing in subsection (f) or (g) of this section shall be construed  
184 (1) to apply to any promise made in violation of subdivision (6) of  
185 section 9-622, or (2) to permit any activity otherwise prohibited in  
186 section 53a-147 or 53a-148.

187 (i) (1) No public official or state employee or member of the official's  
188 or employee's immediate family or a business with which he or she is  
189 associated shall enter into any contract with the state, valued at [one]  
190 two hundred fifty dollars or more, unless (A) such contract is awarded  
191 through an open and public process that includes, at a minimum, (i) pre-  
192 award public disclosure of all offers to enter into such contract, and (ii)  
193 post-award public disclosure of such contract, or (B) such contract is a  
194 contract (i) of employment as a state employee, (ii) with the Technical  
195 Education and Career System for students enrolled in a school in the  
196 system to perform services in conjunction with vocational, technical,  
197 technological or postsecondary education and training any such student  
198 is receiving at a school in the system, subject to the review process under  
199 subdivision (2) of this subsection, (iii) with a public institution of higher  
200 education to support a collaboration with such institution to develop  
201 and commercialize any invention or discovery, (iv) pursuant to a court  
202 appointment, or (v) with the office of the Attorney General to be  
203 retained as an expert witness for, or in anticipation of, litigation or an  
204 administrative proceeding, provided the office of the Attorney General  
205 files with the Office of State Ethics, in a form and manner prescribed by  
206 the Office of State Ethics and not later than thirty days after the expert  
207 witness is disclosed, or required to be disclosed, to the opposing party  
208 or parties, either directly or through the court of competent jurisdiction  
209 or administrative agency, or resolution of the litigation or  
210 administrative proceeding for which the expert witness was retained,  
211 whichever occurs first, a statement disclosing (I) the name of the expert  
212 witness, (II) the qualifications of the expert witness, (III) the scope of the  
213 services provided by the expert witness, (IV) the date of execution of  
214 such contract, (V) the beginning and ending dates of the term of such  
215 contract, and (VI) the value of such contract, if known by the office of  
216 the Attorney General. In no event shall an executive head of an agency,  
217 as defined in section 4-166, including a commissioner of a department,

218 or an executive head of a quasi-public agency, or the executive head's  
219 immediate family or a business with which he is associated enter into  
220 any contract with that agency or quasi-public agency. Nothing in this  
221 subsection shall be construed as applying to any public official who is  
222 appointed as a member of the executive branch or as a member or  
223 director of a quasi-public agency and who receives no compensation  
224 other than per diem payments or reimbursement for actual or necessary  
225 expenses, or both, incurred in the performance of the public official's  
226 duties unless such public official has authority or control over the  
227 subject matter of the contract. Any contract made in violation of this  
228 subsection shall be voidable by a court of competent jurisdiction if the  
229 suit is commenced not later than one hundred eighty days after the  
230 making of the contract. For purposes of this subdivision, "expert  
231 witness" means any individual who is qualified to provide testimony on  
232 any scientific, technical or other specialized matter by virtue of his or  
233 her knowledge, skill, experience, training or education, and is retained  
234 to provide his or her testimony on such matter, including, but not  
235 limited to, in the form of an expert opinion.

236 (2) The superintendent of the Technical Education and Career System  
237 shall establish an open and transparent process to review any contract  
238 entered into under subparagraph (B)(ii) of subdivision (1) of this  
239 subsection.

240 (j) No public official, state employee or candidate for public office, or  
241 a member of any such person's staff or immediate family shall  
242 knowingly accept any gift, as defined in subdivision (5) of section 1-79,  
243 as amended by this act, from a person known to be a registrant or  
244 anyone known to be acting on behalf of a registrant.

245 (k) No public official, spouse of the Governor or state employee shall  
246 accept a fee or honorarium for an article, appearance or speech, or for  
247 participation at an event, in the public official's, spouse's or state  
248 employee's official capacity, provided a public official, Governor's  
249 spouse or state employee may receive payment or reimbursement for  
250 necessary expenses for any such activity in his or her official capacity. If

251 a public official, Governor's spouse or state employee receives such a  
252 payment or reimbursement for lodging or out-of-state travel, or both,  
253 the public official, Governor's spouse or state employee shall, not later  
254 than thirty days thereafter, file a report of the payment or  
255 reimbursement with the Office of State Ethics, unless the payment or  
256 reimbursement is provided by the federal government or another state  
257 government. If a public official, Governor's spouse or state employee  
258 does not file such report within such period, either intentionally or due  
259 to gross negligence on the public official's, Governor's spouse's or state  
260 employee's part, the public official, Governor's spouse or state employee  
261 shall return the payment or reimbursement. If any failure to file such  
262 report is not intentional or due to gross negligence on the part of the  
263 public official, Governor's spouse or state employee, the public official,  
264 Governor's spouse or state employee shall not be subject to any penalty  
265 under this chapter. When a public official, Governor's spouse or state  
266 employee attends an event in this state in the public official's,  
267 Governor's spouse's or state employee's official capacity and as a  
268 principal speaker at such event and receives admission to or food or  
269 beverage at such event from the sponsor of the event, such admission or  
270 food or beverage shall not be considered a gift and no report shall be  
271 required from such public official, spouse or state employee or from the  
272 sponsor of the event.

273 (l) No public official or state employee, or any person acting on behalf  
274 of a public official or state employee, shall wilfully and knowingly  
275 interfere with, influence, direct or solicit existing or new lobbying  
276 contracts, agreements or business relationships for or on behalf of any  
277 person.

278 (m) No public official or state employee shall knowingly accept,  
279 directly or indirectly, any gift, as defined in subdivision (5) of section 1-  
280 79, as amended by this act, from any person the public official or state  
281 employee knows or has reason to know: (1) Is doing business with or  
282 seeking to do business with the department or agency in which the  
283 public official or state employee is employed; (2) is engaged in activities  
284 which are directly regulated by such department or agency; or (3) is

285 prequalified under section 4a-100. No person shall knowingly give,  
286 directly or indirectly, any gift or gifts in violation of this provision. For  
287 the purposes of this subsection, the exclusion to the term "gift" in  
288 subparagraph (L) of subdivision (5) of section 1-79, as amended by this  
289 act, for a gift for the celebration of a major life event shall not apply. Any  
290 person prohibited from making a gift under this subsection shall report  
291 to the Office of State Ethics any solicitation of a gift from such person by  
292 a state employee or public official.

293 (n) (1) As used in this subsection, (A) "investment services" means  
294 investment legal services, investment banking services, investment  
295 advisory services, underwriting services, financial advisory services or  
296 brokerage firm services, and (B) "principal of an investment services  
297 firm" means (i) an individual who is a director of or has an ownership  
298 interest in an investment services firm, except for an individual who  
299 owns less than five per cent of the shares of an investment services firm  
300 which is a publicly traded corporation, (ii) an individual who is  
301 employed by an investment services firm as president, treasurer, or  
302 executive or senior vice president, (iii) an employee of such an  
303 investment services firm who has managerial or discretionary  
304 responsibilities with respect to any investment services, (iv) the spouse  
305 or dependent child of an individual described in this subparagraph, or  
306 (v) a political committee established by or on behalf of an individual  
307 described in this subparagraph.

308 (2) The State Treasurer shall not pay any compensation, expenses or  
309 fees or issue any contract to any firm which provides investment  
310 services when (A) a political committee, as defined in section 9-601,  
311 established by such firm, or (B) a principal of the investment services  
312 firm has made a contribution, as defined in section 9-601a, to, or solicited  
313 contributions on behalf of, any exploratory committee or candidate  
314 committee, as defined in section 9-601, established by the State  
315 Treasurer as a candidate for nomination or election to the office of State  
316 Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall not pay any compensation,  
317 expenses or fees or issue any contract to such firms or principals during  
318 the term of office as State Treasurer, including, for an incumbent State

319 Treasurer seeking reelection, any remainder of the current term of office.

320 (o) If (1) any person (A) is doing business with or seeking to do  
321 business with the department or agency in which a public official or  
322 state employee is employed, or (B) is engaged in activities which are  
323 directly regulated by such department or agency, and (2) such person or  
324 a representative of such person gives to such public official or state  
325 employee anything having a value of more than [ten] twenty dollars,  
326 such person or representative shall, not later than ten days thereafter,  
327 give such recipient and the executive head of the recipient's department  
328 or agency a written report stating the name of the donor, a description  
329 of the item or items given, the value of such items and the cumulative  
330 value of all items given to such recipient during that calendar year. The  
331 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a political contribution  
332 otherwise reported as required by law.

333 (p) (1) No public official or state employee or member of the  
334 immediate family of a public official or state employee shall knowingly  
335 accept, directly or indirectly, any gift costing one hundred dollars or  
336 more from a public official or state employee who is under the  
337 supervision of such public official or state employee.

338 (2) No public official or state employee or member of the immediate  
339 family of a public official or state employee shall knowingly accept,  
340 directly or indirectly, any gift costing one hundred dollars or more from  
341 a public official or state employee who is a supervisor of such public  
342 official or state employee.

343 (3) No public official or state employee shall knowingly give, directly  
344 or indirectly, any gift in violation of subdivision (1) or (2) of this  
345 subsection.

346 (q) No public official or state employee shall intentionally counsel,  
347 authorize or otherwise sanction action that violates any provision of this  
348 part.

349 (r) No public official or state employee shall use such official's public

350 office or such employee's position, or any confidential information  
351 received through such official holding such public office or such  
352 employee holding such position, for the purpose of facilitating the  
353 employment, appointment, promotion, transfer, advancement of the  
354 official's or employee's spouse, child, child's spouse, parent, brother or  
355 sister to a state office or position, or take any other action which furthers  
356 the financial interest of the same, except as provided in subsection (t) of  
357 this section. No public official or state employee shall supervise, manage  
358 or participate in an action relating to the evaluation or discipline of such  
359 official's or employee's spouse, child, child's spouse, parent, brother or  
360 sister, except as provided in subsection (t) of this section.

361 [(r)] (s) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (c)  
362 of this section, a member of the faculty or a member of a faculty  
363 bargaining unit of a constituent unit of the state system of higher  
364 education may enter into a consulting agreement or engage in a research  
365 project with a public or private entity, provided such agreement or  
366 project does not conflict with the member's employment with the  
367 constituent unit, as determined by policies established by the governing  
368 board for such constituent unit.

369 (2) The governing board for each constituent unit of the state system  
370 of higher education shall establish policies to ensure that any such  
371 member who enters such a consulting agreement or engages in such a  
372 research project (A) is not inappropriately using university proprietary  
373 information in connection with such agreement or project, (B) does not  
374 have an interest in such agreement or project that interferes with the  
375 proper discharge of his or her employment with the constituent unit,  
376 and (C) is not inappropriately using such member's association with the  
377 constituent unit in connection with such agreement or project. Such  
378 policies shall (i) establish procedures for the disclosure, review and  
379 management of conflicts of interest relating to any such agreement or  
380 project, (ii) require the approval by the chief academic officer of the  
381 constituent unit, or his or her designee, prior to any such member  
382 entering into any such agreement or engaging in any such project, and  
383 (iii) include procedures that impose sanctions and penalties on any

384 member for failing to comply with the provisions of the policies.  
385 Annually, the internal audit office of each constituent unit shall audit  
386 the constituent unit's compliance with such policies and report its  
387 findings to the committee of the constituent unit established pursuant  
388 to subdivision (3) of this subsection. For purposes of this subsection,  
389 "consulting" means the provision of services for compensation to a  
390 public or private entity by a member of the faculty or member of a  
391 faculty bargaining unit of a constituent unit of the state system of higher  
392 education: (I) When the request to provide such services is based on  
393 such member's expertise in a field or prominence in such field, and (II)  
394 while such member is not acting in the capacity of a state employee, and  
395 "research" means a systematic investigation, including, but not limited  
396 to, research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop  
397 or contribute to general knowledge in the applicable field of study.

398 (3) There is established a committee for each constituent unit of the  
399 state system of higher education to monitor the constituent unit's  
400 compliance with the policies and procedures described in subdivision  
401 (2) of this subsection governing consulting agreements and research  
402 projects with public or private entities by a member of the faculty or a  
403 member of a faculty bargaining unit of such constituent unit. Each  
404 committee shall consist of nine members as follows: (A) Three members,  
405 appointed jointly by the Governor, the speaker of the House of  
406 Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority  
407 leader of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate,  
408 the minority leader of the House of Representatives and the minority  
409 leader of the Senate, who shall serve as members for each such  
410 committee; (B) one member appointed by the chairperson of the  
411 constituent unit's governing board from the membership of such board;  
412 (C) the chief academic officer of the constituent unit, or his or her  
413 designee; (D) three members appointed by the chief executive officer of  
414 the constituent unit; and (E) one member appointed by the chairperson  
415 of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board from the membership of such  
416 board. Members shall serve for a term of two years. Any vacancies shall  
417 be filled by the appointing authority. Each committee shall (i) review  
418 the annual reports submitted by the internal audit office for the

419 constituent unit, pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, (ii) make  
420 recommendations, annually, to the governing board of the constituent  
421 unit concerning the policies and procedures of the constituent unit  
422 established pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, including any  
423 changes to such policies and procedures, and (iii) send a copy of such  
424 recommendations, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint  
425 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
426 matters relating to higher education and government administration.

427 (4) The provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall apply  
428 to any member of the faculty or member of a faculty bargaining unit of  
429 a constituent unit of the state system of higher education who enters  
430 such a consulting agreement or engages in such a research project  
431 without prior approval, as described in subdivision (2) of this  
432 subsection.

433 [(s)] (t) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other  
434 provision of this part, a state employee who is employed at a constituent  
435 unit of the state system of higher education and a member of the  
436 immediate family of such state employee may be employed in the same  
437 department or division of such constituent unit, provided the  
438 constituent unit has determined that procedures have been  
439 implemented to ensure that any final decisions impacting the financial  
440 interests of either such state employee, including decisions to hire,  
441 promote, increase the compensation of or renew the employment of  
442 such state employee, are made by another state employee who is not a  
443 member of the immediate family of such state employee.

444 Sec. 4. Section 1-85 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
445 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

446 (a) (1) For purposes of this section, "business with which the public  
447 official or state employee is associated" has the same meaning as  
448 "business with which he is associated", as provided in section 1-79, as  
449 amended by this act.

450 (2) A public official, including an elected state official, or state

451 employee has an interest which is in substantial conflict with the proper  
452 discharge of [his] such official's or employee's duties or employment in  
453 the public interest and of [his] such official's or employee's  
454 responsibilities as prescribed in the laws of this state, if [he] such official  
455 or employee has reason to believe or expect that [he, his] any of the  
456 following persons will derive a direct monetary gain or suffer a direct  
457 monetary loss, as the case may be, by reason of such official's or  
458 employee's official activity: The official or employee, or such official's or  
459 employee's spouse, [a] dependent child, or [a business with which he is  
460 associated will derive a direct monetary gain or suffer a direct monetary

461 loss, as the case may be, by reason of his official activity] nonstate  
462 employer or the nonstate employer of the official's or employee's  
463 spouse, or a business with which the public official or state employee is  
464 associated, except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection.

465 (3) In the case of an elected state official, such official only has a  
466 substantial conflict regarding a matter concerning such elected official's  
467 nonstate employer or the nonstate employer of such official's spouse or  
468 a business with which the official is associated, if such official has actual  
469 knowledge, rather than has reason to believe or expect, that such  
470 nonstate employer or business will derive a direct monetary gain or  
471 suffer a direct monetary loss, as the case may be, by reason of the official  
472 activity of such official.

473 (4) A public official, including an elected state official, or state  
474 employee does not have an interest which is in substantial conflict with  
475 the proper discharge of [his] such official's or employee's duties in the  
476 public interest and of [his] such official's or employee's responsibilities  
477 as prescribed by the laws of this state, if any benefit or detriment accrues  
478 to [him, his] such official or employee, such official's or employee's  
479 spouse, [a] dependent child [,] or nonstate employer, the nonstate  
480 employer of the official's or employee's spouse or a business with which  
481 [he, his spouse or such dependent child] the public official or state  
482 employee is associated as a member of a profession, occupation or  
483 group to no greater extent than any other member of such profession,  
484 occupation or group. [A] Except as provided in subsection (b) of this

485 section and subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 1-86, as amended  
486 by this act, a public official, including an elected state official or state  
487 employee who has a substantial conflict may not take official action on  
488 the matter.

489 (b) If an elected state official has a substantial conflict regarding a  
490 matter that concerns a direct monetary gain or direct monetary loss for  
491 the nonstate employer of such official or the nonstate employer of such  
492 official's spouse, such official shall either excuse himself or herself from  
493 the matter or, prior to taking official action on the matter, prepare a  
494 written statement, on a form prescribed by the Office of State Ethics and  
495 signed under penalty of false statement, describing the matter requiring  
496 action, the nature of the conflict and explaining why, despite the  
497 conflict, such official is able to vote or otherwise participate fairly,  
498 objectively and in the public interest in such matter. Such official shall  
499 submit a copy of such statement to the Office of State Ethics and enter a  
500 copy of the statement in the journal or minutes of the state agency to  
501 which such official has been elected, or, if such agency does not have a  
502 journal or minutes, submit the copy to such agency.

503 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 1-86 of the general statutes is repealed  
504 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

505 (a) (1) For purposes of this section, "business with which such public  
506 official or employee is associated" has the same meaning as "business  
507 with which he is associated", as provided in section 1-79, as amended by  
508 this act.

509 [(a)] (2) Any public official or state employee, other than an elected  
510 state official, who, in the discharge of such official's or employee's  
511 official duties, would be required to take an action that would affect a  
512 financial interest of such official or employee, such official's or  
513 employee's spouse, parent, brother, sister, child, [or] the spouse of a  
514 child, nonstate employer, nonstate employer of the official's or  
515 employee's spouse or a business with which such official or employee is  
516 associated, other than an interest of a de minimis nature, an interest that  
517 is not distinct from that of a substantial segment of the general public or

518 an interest in substantial conflict with the performance of official duties,  
519 as defined in section 1-85, as amended by this act, has a potential conflict  
520 of interest.

521 [Under such circumstances, such official or employee shall, if] (3) If  
522 such official or employee is a member of a state regulatory agency, such  
523 official or employee shall either excuse himself or herself from the  
524 matter or, prior to taking official action on the matter, prepare a written  
525 statement on a form prescribed by the Office of State Ethics and signed  
526 under penalty of false statement, describing the matter requiring action  
527 and the nature of the potential conflict and explaining why despite the  
528 potential conflict, such official or employee is able to vote [and] or  
529 otherwise participate fairly, objectively and in the public interest in such  
530 matter. Such public official or state employee shall [deliver] submit a  
531 copy of the statement to the Office of State Ethics and enter a copy of the  
532 statement in the journal or minutes of the agency or, if such agency does  
533 not have a journal or minutes, submit the copy to such agency.

534 (4) If such official or employee is not a member of a state regulatory  
535 agency, [such official or employee shall,] in the case of either a  
536 substantial or potential conflict [,] that would affect a financial interest  
537 of such official or employee, such official's or employee's spouse, parent,  
538 brother, sister, child or the spouse of a child or a business with which  
539 such official or employee is associated, such official or employee shall  
540 prepare a written statement signed under penalty of false statement  
541 describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the conflict and  
542 [deliver] submit a copy of the statement to such official's or employee's  
543 immediate [superior] supervisor, if any, who shall assign the matter to  
544 another employee, or if such official or employee has no immediate  
545 [superior] supervisor, such official or employee shall take such steps as  
546 the Office of State Ethics shall prescribe or advise.

547 (5) In the case of either a substantial or potential conflict that would  
548 affect a financial interest of the official's or employee's nonstate  
549 employer, or the nonstate employer of the official's or employee's  
550 spouse, such official or employee shall either (A) excuse himself or

551 herself from the matter, or (B) prior to taking official action on the  
552 matter, prepare a written statement on a form prescribed by the Office  
553 of State Ethics and signed under penalty of false statement, describing  
554 the matter requiring action and the nature of the conflict and either (i)  
555 explaining why despite the conflict, such official or employee is able to  
556 vote or otherwise participate fairly, objectively and in the public interest  
557 in such matter, (ii) stating that the official or employee has been directed  
558 to continue work on the matter by such official's or employee's  
559 supervisor in the agency after disclosing the substantial or potential  
560 conflict to such supervisor, or (iii) both. Such official or employee shall  
561 submit a copy of the statement in the journal or minutes of the agency  
562 or, if such agency does not have a journal or minutes, submit the copy  
563 to such agency.

564       Sec. 6. Section 10a-8g of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes  
565 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
566 *October 1, 2026*):

567       Not later than January 1, 2026, the Board of Regents for Higher  
568 Education shall appoint a compliance officer. The duties of such officer  
569 shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) conducting audits on a  
570 regular basis of the records and expenditures at each constituent unit  
571 and institution of higher education governed by said board and the  
572 central office of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities to  
573 measure, as often as deemed necessary by such officer, (A) compliance  
574 with applicable laws and regulations and policies adopted by said  
575 board, (B) reliability of financial reporting and record-keeping, (C)  
576 effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and (D) assessing the  
577 adequacy and uniformity of internal controls and compliance practices  
578 at each such institution and the central office; (2) reporting to said board  
579 on the findings of such audit and assessment and making  
580 recommendations for improvement; and (3) performing the audit  
581 required pursuant to subsection [(r)] (s) of section 1-84, as amended by  
582 this act.

583       Sec. 7. Subdivision (5) of section 1-79 of the general statutes is

584 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
585 *1, 2026*):

586 (5) "Gift" means anything of value, which is directly and personally  
587 received, unless consideration of equal or greater value is given in  
588 return. "Gift" does not include:

589 (A) A political contribution otherwise reported as required by law or  
590 a donation or payment as described in subdivision (9) or (10) of  
591 subsection (b) of section 9-601a;

592 (B) Services provided by persons volunteering their time, if provided  
593 to aid or promote the success or defeat of any political party, any  
594 candidate or candidates for public office or the position of convention  
595 delegate or town committee member or any referendum question;

596 (C) A commercially reasonable loan made on terms not more  
597 favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business;

598 (D) A gift received from (i) an individual's spouse, fiancé or fiancée,  
599 (ii) the parent, grandparent, brother or sister of such spouse or such  
600 individual, or (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such  
601 child;

602 (E) Goods or services (i) that are provided to a state agency or quasi-  
603 public agency (I) for use on state or quasi-public agency property, or (II)  
604 that support an event or the participation by a public official or state  
605 employee at an event, and (ii) that facilitate state or quasi-public agency  
606 action or functions. As used in this subparagraph, "state property"  
607 means property owned by the state or a quasi-public agency or property  
608 leased to a state agency or quasi-public agency;

609 (F) A certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than  
610 [one] two hundred fifty dollars;

611 (G) A rebate, discount or promotional item available to the general  
612 public;

613 (H) Printed or recorded informational material germane to state  
614 action or functions;

615 (I) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred  
616 dollars in the aggregate per recipient in a calendar year, and consumed  
617 on an occasion or occasions at which the person paying, directly or  
618 indirectly, for the food or beverage, or [his] such person's representative,  
619 is in attendance;

620 (J) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred  
621 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed legislative  
622 reception to which all members of the General Assembly are invited and  
623 which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist  
624 or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i) a reception  
625 hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also  
626 been hosted by the business organization which such lobbyist owns or  
627 is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a business organization  
628 shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees  
629 of the business organization who are lobbyists. In making the  
630 calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-hundred-dollar  
631 limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food and beverage by  
632 the number of persons whom the donor reasonably expects to attend the  
633 reception;

634 (K) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred  
635 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed reception to  
636 which all members of the General Assembly from a region of the state  
637 are invited and which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year  
638 by a lobbyist or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i)  
639 a reception hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed  
640 to have also been hosted by the business organization which such  
641 lobbyist owns or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a  
642 business organization shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all  
643 owners and employees of the business organization who are lobbyists.  
644 In making the calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-  
645 hundred-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food

646 and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor reasonably  
647 expects to attend the reception. As used in this subparagraph, "region of  
648 the state" means the established geographic service area of the  
649 organization hosting the reception;

650 (L) A gift, including, but not limited to, food or beverage or both,  
651 provided by an individual for the celebration of a major life event,  
652 provided any such gift provided by an individual who is not a member  
653 of the family of the recipient does not exceed one thousand five hundred  
654 dollars in value;

655 (M) Gifts costing less than [one] two hundred fifty dollars in the  
656 aggregate or food or beverage provided at a hospitality suite at a  
657 meeting or conference of an interstate legislative association, by a  
658 person who is not a registrant or is not doing business with the state of  
659 Connecticut;

660 (N) Admission to a charitable or civic event, including food and  
661 beverage provided at such event, but excluding lodging or travel  
662 expenses, at which a public official or state employee participates in his  
663 or her official capacity, provided such admission is provided by the  
664 primary sponsoring entity;

665 (O) Anything of value provided by an employer of (i) a public official,  
666 (ii) a state employee, or (iii) a spouse of a public official or state  
667 employee, to such official, employee or spouse, provided such benefits  
668 are customarily and ordinarily provided to others in similar  
669 circumstances;

670 (P) Anything having a value of not more than [ten] twenty dollars,  
671 provided the aggregate value of all things provided by a donor to a  
672 recipient under this subdivision in any calendar year does not exceed  
673 [fifty] one hundred dollars;

674 (Q) Training that is provided by a vendor for a product purchased by  
675 a state or quasi-public agency that is offered to all customers of such  
676 vendor;

677 (R) Travel expenses, lodging, food, beverage and other benefits  
678 customarily provided by a prospective employer, when provided to a  
679 student at a public institution of higher education whose employment  
680 is derived from such student's status as a student at such institution, in  
681 connection with bona fide employment discussions;

682 (S) Expenses of a public official, paid by the party committee of which  
683 party such official is a member, for the purpose of accomplishing the  
684 lawful purposes of the committee. As used in this subparagraph, "party  
685 committee" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (2) of  
686 section 9-601 and "lawful purposes of the committee" has the same  
687 meaning as provided in subsection (g) of section 9-607; or

688 (T) Travel expenses, lodging, food, beverage and other benefits  
689 customarily provided in the course of employment, when provided to a  
690 public member of the Investment Advisory Council established under  
691 section 3-13b.

692 Sec. 8. Subdivision (6) of section 1-91 of the general statutes is  
693 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
694 *1, 2026*):

695 (6) "Expenditure" means any advance, conveyance, deposit,  
696 distribution, transfer of funds, loan, payment, unless expressly  
697 excluded; any payments for telephone, mailing, postage, printing and  
698 other clerical or office services and materials; any paid communications,  
699 costing [fifty] one hundred dollars or more in any calendar year,  
700 disseminated by means of any printing, broadcasting or other medium,  
701 provided such communications refer to pending administrative or  
702 legislative action; any contract, agreement, promise or other obligation;  
703 any solicitation or solicitations, costing [fifty] one hundred dollars or  
704 more in the aggregate for any calendar year, of other persons to  
705 communicate with a public official or state employee for the purpose of  
706 influencing any legislative or administrative act and any pledge,  
707 subscription of money or anything of value. "Expenditure" does not  
708 include (A) the payment of a registrant's fee pursuant to section 1-95, (B)  
709 any expenditure made by any club, committee, partnership,

710 organization, business, union, association or corporation for the  
711 purpose of publishing a newsletter or other release intended primarily  
712 for its members, shareholders or employees, whether in written or  
713 electronic form or made orally during a regularly noticed meeting, (C)  
714 any expenditure made by any club, committee, partnership,  
715 organization, business, union, association or corporation for the  
716 purpose of transporting its members, shareholders or employees to or  
717 from a specific site, where such members, shareholders or employees  
718 received no other compensation or reimbursement for lobbying from  
719 such club, committee, partnership, organization, business, union,  
720 association or corporation, or (D) contributions, membership dues or  
721 other fees paid to associations, nonstock corporations or tax-exempt  
722 organizations under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,  
723 or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United  
724 States, as amended from time to time. [amended.]

725 Sec. 9. Subdivision (7) of section 1-91 of the general statutes is  
726 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
727 *1, 2026*):

728 (7) "Gift" means anything of value, which is directly and personally  
729 received, unless consideration of equal or greater value is given in  
730 return. "Gift" does not include:

731 (A) A political contribution otherwise reported as required by law or  
732 a donation or payment described in subdivision (9) or (10) of subsection  
733 (b) of section 9-601a;

734 (B) Services provided by persons volunteering their time, if provided  
735 to aid or promote the success or defeat of any political party, any  
736 candidate or candidates for public office or the position of convention  
737 delegate or town committee member or any referendum question;

738 (C) A commercially reasonable loan made on terms not more  
739 favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business;

740 (D) A gift received from (i) the individual's spouse, fiancé or fiancée,

741 (ii) the parent, grandparent, brother or sister of such spouse or such  
742 individual, or (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such  
743 child;

744 (E) Goods or services (i) that are provided to a state agency or quasi-  
745 public agency (I) for use on state or quasi-public agency property, or (II)  
746 that support an event or the participation by a public official or state  
747 employee at an event, and (ii) that facilitate state or quasi-public agency  
748 action or functions. As used in this subparagraph, "state property"  
749 means property owned by the state or a quasi-public agency or property  
750 leased to a state or quasi-public agency;

751 (F) A certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than  
752 [one] two hundred fifty dollars;

753 (G) A rebate, discount or promotional item available to the general  
754 public;

755 (H) Printed or recorded informational material germane to state  
756 action or functions;

757 (I) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred  
758 dollars in the aggregate per recipient in a calendar year, and consumed  
759 on an occasion or occasions at which the person paying, directly or  
760 indirectly, for the food or beverage, or [his] such person's representative,  
761 is in attendance;

762 (J) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred  
763 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed legislative  
764 reception to which all members of the General Assembly are invited and  
765 which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist  
766 or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i) a reception  
767 hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also  
768 been hosted by the business organization which [he] such lobbyist owns  
769 or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a business organization  
770 shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees  
771 of the business organization who are lobbyists. In making the

772 calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-hundred-dollar  
773 limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food and beverage by  
774 the number of persons whom the donor reasonably expects to attend the  
775 reception;

776 (K) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred  
777 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed reception to  
778 which all members of the General Assembly from a region of the state  
779 are invited and which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year  
780 by a lobbyist or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i)  
781 a reception hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed  
782 to have also been hosted by the business organization which [he] such  
783 lobbyist owns or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a  
784 business organization shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all  
785 owners and employees of the business organization who are lobbyists.  
786 In making the calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-  
787 hundred-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food  
788 and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor reasonably  
789 expects to attend the reception. As used in this subparagraph, "region of  
790 the state" means the established geographic service area of the  
791 organization hosting the reception;

792 (L) A gift, including, but not limited to, food or beverage or both,  
793 provided by an individual for the celebration of a major life event,  
794 provided any such gift provided by an individual who is not a member  
795 of the family of the recipient does not exceed one thousand five hundred  
796 dollars in value;

797 (M) Gifts costing less than [one] two hundred fifty dollars in the  
798 aggregate or food or beverage provided at a hospitality suite at a  
799 meeting or conference of an interstate legislative association, by a  
800 person who is not a registrant or is not doing business with the state of  
801 Connecticut;

802 (N) Admission to a charitable or civic event, including food and  
803 beverage provided at such event, but excluding lodging or travel  
804 expenses, at which a public official or state employee participates in his

805 or her official capacity, provided such admission is provided by the  
806 primary sponsoring entity;

807 (O) Anything of value provided by an employer of (i) a public official,  
808 (ii) a state employee, or (iii) a spouse of a public official or state  
809 employee, to such official, employee or spouse, provided such benefits  
810 are customarily and ordinarily provided to others in similar  
811 circumstances;

812 (P) Anything having a value of not more than [ten] twenty dollars,  
813 provided the aggregate value of all things provided by a donor to a  
814 recipient under this subdivision in any calendar year does not exceed  
815 [fifty] one hundred dollars; or

816 (Q) Training that is provided by a vendor for a product purchased by  
817 a state or quasi-public agency that is offered to all customers of such  
818 vendor.

819 Sec. 10. Subdivision (12) of section 1-91 of the general statutes is  
820 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
821 *1, 2026*):

822 (12) "Lobbyist" means a person who in lobbying and in furtherance  
823 of lobbying makes or agrees to make expenditures, or receives or agrees  
824 to receive compensation, reimbursement, or both, and such  
825 compensation, reimbursement or expenditures are three thousand  
826 dollars or more in any calendar year or the combined amount thereof is  
827 three thousand dollars or more in any such calendar year. "Lobbyist"  
828 does not include:

829 (A) A public official, employee of a branch of state government or a  
830 subdivision thereof, including an official or employee of a quasi-public  
831 agency, or elected or appointed official of a municipality or his or her  
832 designee other than an independent contractor, who is acting within the  
833 scope of his or her authority or employment;

834 (B) A publisher, owner or an employee of the press, radio or  
835 television while disseminating news or editorial comment to the general

836 public in the ordinary course of business;

837 (C) An individual representing himself or herself or another person  
838 before the legislature or a state agency other than for the purpose of  
839 influencing legislative or administrative action;

840 (D) Any individual or employee who receives no compensation or  
841 reimbursement specifically for lobbying and who limits his activities  
842 solely to formal appearances to give testimony before public sessions of  
843 committees of the General Assembly or public hearings of state agencies  
844 and who, if he or she testifies, registers his or her appearance in the  
845 records of such committees or agencies;

846 (E) A member of an advisory board acting within the scope of his or  
847 her appointment;

848 (F) A senator or representative in Congress acting within the scope of  
849 his or her office;

850 (G) Any person who receives no compensation or reimbursement  
851 specifically for lobbying and who spends no more than five hours in  
852 furtherance of lobbying unless such person (i) exclusive of salary,  
853 receives compensation or makes expenditures, or both, of three  
854 thousand dollars or more in any calendar year for lobbying or the  
855 combined amount thereof is three thousand dollars or more in any such  
856 calendar year, or (ii) expends [fifty] one hundred dollars or more for the  
857 benefit of a public official in the legislative or executive branch, a  
858 member of his or her staff or immediate family;

859 (H) A communicator lobbyist who receives or agrees to receive  
860 compensation, reimbursement, or both, the aggregate amount of which  
861 is less than three thousand dollars from each client in any calendar year.

862 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is  
863 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
864 *1, 2026*):

865 (a) Each client lobbyist registrant shall file with the Office of State

866 Ethics between the first and tenth day of April, July and January a  
867 financial report, signed under penalty of false statement. The April and  
868 July reports shall cover its lobbying activities during the previous  
869 calendar quarter and the January report shall cover its lobbying  
870 activities during the previous two calendar quarters. In addition to such  
871 reports, each client lobbyist registrant which attempts to influence  
872 legislative action shall file, under penalty of false statement, interim  
873 monthly reports of its lobbying activities for each month the General  
874 Assembly is in regular session, except that no monthly report shall be  
875 required for any month in which it neither expends nor agrees to expend  
876 [one] two hundred fifty dollars or more in furtherance of lobbying. Such  
877 interim monthly reports shall be filed with the Office of State Ethics no  
878 later than the tenth day of the month following the last day of the month  
879 reported. If the client lobbyist registrant is not an individual, an  
880 authorized officer or agent of the client lobbyist registrant shall sign the  
881 form. A communicator lobbyist for a municipality or any subdivision of  
882 a municipality shall file the reports described in this subsection utilizing  
883 the client lobbyist reporting schedule.

884 Sec. 12. Subsection (e) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is  
885 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
886 *1, 2026*):

887 (e) Each client lobbyist registrant financial report shall be on a form  
888 prescribed by the board and shall state expenditures made and the  
889 fundamental terms of contracts, agreements or promises to pay  
890 compensation or reimbursement or to make expenditures in furtherance  
891 of lobbying. Any such fundamental terms shall be reported once in the  
892 monthly, quarterly or post-termination report next following the  
893 entering into of such contract. Such financial report shall include an  
894 itemized statement of each expenditure of [ten] twenty dollars or more  
895 per person for each occasion made by the reporting registrant or a group  
896 of registrants which includes the reporting registrant for the benefit of a  
897 public official in the legislative or executive branch, a member of his  
898 staff or immediate family, itemized by date, beneficiary, amount and  
899 circumstances of the transaction. The requirement of an itemized

900 statement shall not apply to an expenditure made by a reporting  
901 registrant or a group of registrants which includes the reporting  
902 registrant for (1) the benefit of the members of the General Assembly at  
903 an event that is a reception to which all such members are invited or all  
904 members of a region of the state, as such term is used in subparagraph  
905 (K) of subdivision (7) of section 1-91, as amended by this act, are invited,  
906 unless the expenditure is [thirty] sixty dollars or more per person, or (2)  
907 benefits personally and directly received by a public official or state  
908 employee at a charitable or civic event at which the public official or  
909 state employee participates in his official capacity, unless the  
910 expenditure is [thirty] sixty dollars or more per person, per event. If the  
911 compensation is required to be reported for an individual whose  
912 lobbying is incidental to his or her regular employment, it shall be  
913 sufficient to report a prorated amount based on the value of the time  
914 devoted to lobbying. On the first financial report following registration  
915 each client lobbyist registrant shall include any expenditures incident to  
916 lobbying activities that were received or expended prior to registration  
917 and not previously reported to the Office of State Ethics.

918 Sec. 13. Subsection (g) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is  
919 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
920 *1, 2026*):

921 (g) Each former registrant shall (1) report receipts or expenditures  
922 incident to lobbying activities during [his] such registrant's period of  
923 registration which are received or expended following termination of  
924 registration and (2) report each expenditure of [ten] twenty dollars or  
925 more per person for each occasion made by [him] such registrant for the  
926 benefit of a public official or a member of such official's immediate  
927 family or staff which occurs within six months after termination of  
928 registration.

929 Sec. 14. Subsection (a) of section 1-96a of the general statutes is  
930 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
931 *1, 2026*):

932 (a) Each registrant shall obtain and preserve all accounts, bills,

933 receipts and other documents necessary to substantiate the financial  
 934 reports required by section 1-96, as amended by this act, for a period of  
 935 three years from the date of the filing of the report referring to such  
 936 financial matters, provided this section shall apply to each expenditure  
 937 for the benefit of a public official of [~~ten~~] twenty dollars or more and all  
 938 other expenditures of [~~fifty~~] one hundred dollars or more.

939 Sec. 15. Section 1-96e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
 940 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

941 Each registrant who pays or reimburses a public official or state  
 942 employee [~~ten~~] twenty dollars or more for necessary expenses, as  
 943 defined in section 1-79, as amended by this act, shall, within forty-five  
 944 days of such payment or reimbursement, file a statement with the Office  
 945 of State Ethics indicating the name of such individual and the amount  
 946 of the expenses.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	1-80(d)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-83(a) and (b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-84
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-85
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-86(a)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	10a-8g
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-79(5)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-91(6)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-91(7)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-91(12)
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-96(a)
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-96(e)
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-96(g)
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-96a(a)
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-96e

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
State Ethics, Off.	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill expands existing conflict of interest provisions under the State Code of Ethics, including the types of financial holdings that must be disclosed by public officials, relationships with nonstate employers, and an explicit ban on nepotism. These changes result in a potential minimal revenue gain to the Office of State Ethics (OSE) from associated fines beginning in FY 27. It is anticipated that few, if any, additional individuals<sup>1</sup> will be charged under the bill.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

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<sup>1</sup> Between FY 22 and FY 25, \$5,950 was collected in fines for false statements under CGS Sec. 53a-157b.

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5532*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS FOR REVISIONS TO THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS AND INCREASING VARIOUS MONETARY THRESHOLDS IN SAID CODES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill makes numerous changes to the state Code of Ethics for Public Officials (see BACKGROUND). Primarily, it expands what constitutes a conflict of interest under the code to include actions that a public official or state employee has reason to believe or expect will result in a direct monetary gain or loss to his or her non-state employer or spouse's non-state employer.

The bill also (1) establishes a nepotism standard; (2) adjusts disclosure requirements for tax-sheltered annuity retirement plans on public statements of financial interest; (3) raises the code's financial thresholds (for example, raises the dollar limit for an allowable gift); and (4) reduces the quorum requirement for the nine-member Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (CEAB) from six to five (§ 1).

The code generally places certain limits on how public officials (including elected state officials) may take official action on a matter for which they have a conflict of interest (depending on whether it is a substantial or potential conflict). Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, a substantial conflict of interest exists if the official or employee has reason to believe or expect that their actions will result in a direct monetary gain or loss to themselves or a business with which they are associated.

For elected state officials, the bill also limits the circumstances when a substantial conflict of interest could arise. It does so by specifying that

in matters concerning a business that the official, or their or their spouse's non-state employer, is associated with, the official must have actual knowledge (rather than reason to believe or expect) that the business or non-state employer will get a direct monetary gain or loss due to their actions.

As under existing law, a substantial conflict does not exist if the monetary gain or loss to the non-state employer is no greater than the gain or loss realized by any other member of the same profession, occupation, or group.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except that the quorum requirement change is effective upon passage.

## **§ 2 — STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS**

Existing law requires all state-wide elected officers, General Assembly members, department heads and deputies, quasi-public agency members or directors, Investment Advisory Council members, and other governor-designated officials to file statements of financial interest with the Office of State Ethics (OSE).

These statements must include, among other things, the name of securities with a fair market value over \$5,000 owned by the official or his or her spouse or dependent children, or held in the name of a corporation, partnership, or trust for their benefit. Under the bill, if these securities are a tax-sheltered annuity retirement plan under federal tax law (a "403(b) plan"), then only the name of the retirement savings plan must be disclosed and not the name of the securities. Current law makes a similar allowance for other savings plans allowed under federal tax law (for example, 401(k) retirement savings plans, 529 education savings plans).

## **§ 3 — NEPOTISM**

The bill prohibits public officials and state employees from using their office or position or any confidential information they have

received due to their office or position to cause the employment, appointment, promotion, transfer, or advancement of certain family members for state offices or positions. Specifically, this includes the official's or employee's spouse, child, spouse's child, parent, or sibling. The prohibition also extends to (1) taking actions furthering the financial interest of these family members or (2) supervising, managing, or participating in the evaluation or discipline of them, except as allowed by law for close family members employed at the same higher education constituent unit.

Existing law already prohibits public officials and state employees from disclosing confidential information for the financial gain of these family members or generally taking actions that would affect their financial interests under the state's conflict of interest laws.

## **§§ 4 & 5 — CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

### ***Substantial Conflicts of Interest (§ 4)***

Current law prohibits public officials and state employees from taking official action on a matter for which they have a substantial or potential conflict of interest. By deeming actions a public official (including an elected state official) or state employee has reason to believe will, or expects to, result in a direct monetary gain or loss to their or their spouse's non-state employer as a substantial conflict of interest, the bill generally prohibits officials and employees from taking these actions.

For elected state officials under the bill, however, a substantial conflict of interest only exists if the official has actual knowledge that either a business the official is associated with, or their or their spouse's non-state employer, will get a direct monetary gain or loss due to their actions. Under the bill, a business the official is associated with generally includes any business entity in which the official or a member of his or her immediate family is a director, officer, owner, limited or general partner, beneficiary of a trust, or holder of stock constituting at least 5% of the total outstanding stock (excluding nonprofit entities for which they are unpaid directors or officers).

If elected state officials have a substantial conflict of interest due to their or their spouse's non-state employer, the bill requires them to either (1) recuse themselves from the matter or (2) prepare a written statement on an OSE-provided form under penalty of false statement before acting on it. The statement must describe the matter requiring action, the potential conflict, and why, despite the conflict, the official is able to vote or otherwise participate fairly, objectively, and in the public interest. The official must submit the statement to OSE and enter a copy of it into his or her agency's journal or minutes (or submit it to the agency if it does not have a journal or minutes). By law, a false statement is a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 364 days in prison, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both (CGS § 53a-157b).

The bill also establishes procedures for these substantial conflicts involving all other public officials and state employees (see below).

#### ***Potential Conflicts of Interest (§ 5)***

Under current law, a public official or state employee has a potential conflict of interest if their official duties require them to take action that would affect their own financial interest or that of their spouse, parent, sibling, child, or child's spouse (other than one of a minimal nature or that is not distinct from that of a substantial segment of the general public). The bill expands a potential conflict of interest to include those actions involving their or their spouse's non-state employer.

As under the existing law for addressing potential conflicts of interest regarding family members, if the official or employee is a member of a state regulatory agency, he or she must either (1) recuse himself or herself from the matter or (2) prepare a written statement signed under penalty of false statement. The bill further requires that this statement be (1) prepared before taking official action; (2) on an OSE-prepared form; and (3) submitted to the agency, if the agency does not have a journal or minutes.

By law, officials and employees who are not members of a regulatory agency and have potential conflicts regarding a family member must

prepare a written statement under penalty of false statement that describes the matter requiring action and the potential conflict. They must deliver a copy to (1) their immediate supervisor, who must reassign the matter, or (2) OSE, if they do not have an immediate supervisor, to take steps that the office prescribes or advises.

For substantial or potential conflicts involving a covered non-state employer, all officials and employees other than state elected officials must generally comply with the procedures established for state regulatory agency officials and employees described above. However, the official’s or employee’s statement may additionally indicate that the official’s or employee’s supervisor directed them to continue working on the matter after the conflict was disclosed.

**FINANCIAL THRESHOLDS**

The state ethics codes generally prohibit public officials, candidates, and state employees from soliciting or accepting (and lobbyists from giving) various gifts if they are worth more than a certain amount. The codes also impose various prohibitions, requirements, and other conditions on certain items and actions if they are worth more than a certain amount.

The bill increases these financial thresholds in the ethics codes as shown in the table below. More specifically, it increases the thresholds that determine whether (1) something is a gift subject to various prohibitions under the codes and (2) other various prohibitions, requirements, and conditions apply to an item or action (for example, the minimum value of an expenditure that must be reported on client lobbyist registrant financial reports).

**Table: Financial Thresholds Under Current Law and the Bill**

<i>Current Financial Threshold</i>	<i>Threshold Under the Bill</i>
\$10	\$20
30	60
50	100
100	250
1,000	1,500

**Gifts (§§ 7 & 9)**

The bill increases the value thresholds that determine whether something is a “gift” subject to various prohibitions under the Code of Ethics for Public Officials (§ 7) or the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists (§ 9). For example, the code for public officials generally prohibits public officials and state employees from (1) accepting a gift based on any understanding that their vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced by it; (2) knowingly accepting a gift from a known registered lobbyist; or (3) knowingly accepting a gift from someone who the official or employee knows is seeking to do business with their department or agency (CGS § 1-84(g), (j) & (m)). The code for lobbyists similarly prohibits registered lobbyists from knowingly giving a gift to a state employee or public official (CGS § 1-97(a)).

The table below shows a brief description of the covered gift and its value threshold under current law and the bill for determining whether it is exempted under the codes.

**Table: Exempted Gift Thresholds Under Current Law and the Bill**

<i>Gift</i>	<i>Current Exempted Gift Value</i>	<i>Exempted Gift Value Under the Bill</i>
Certificate, plaque, or other ceremonial award	Less than \$100	Less than \$250
Food and beverages per recipient, per year, consumed at an occasion attended by the person paying for the food and beverages	Less than \$50	Less than \$100
Food and beverages per person consumed at a publicly noticed legislative reception for all legislators, or those from a particular state region, hosted once per year by a lobbyist or business organization	Less than \$50	Less than \$100
Gifts, including food and beverages, from someone who is not a family member to celebrate a major life event	\$1,000 or less	\$1,500 or less
Total gifts or food and beverages provided at a hospitality suite at a meeting or conference of an interstate legislative association, by someone who	Less than \$100	Less than \$250

<i>Gift</i>	<i>Current Exempted Gift Value</i>	<i>Exempted Gift Value Under the Bill</i>
is not a registered lobbyists or doing business with Connecticut		
Anything with a certain value	Less than \$10 for individual items and less than \$50 total value for all things provided by a donor to a recipient in a calendar year	Less than \$20 for individual items and less than \$100 total value for all things provided by a donor to a recipient in a calendar year

**Other Prohibitions, Requirements, and Conditions (§§ 3 & 8-15)**

The bill also increases the financial thresholds that trigger various prohibitions, requirements, or other additional conditions. These include, for example, the value of a contract that a public official cannot enter into without an open and public process, or expenditure amounts that trigger certain reporting requirements. The table below shows the bill’s threshold increases and a brief description of the applicable provision.

**Table: Thresholds for Other Prohibitions, Requirements, and Conditions**

<i>Bill Section</i>	<i>Threshold Increase Under the Bill</i>	<i>Provision</i>
3	From at least \$100 to at least \$250	The value of most contracts that public officials and state employees (and members of their immediate families and associated businesses) cannot enter unless awarded through an open and public process
3	From greater than \$10 to greater than \$20	The value of anything given to a public official or state employee that must be reported if it was given by a person (1) doing business, or seeking to, with the official’s or employee’s agency or (2) engaged in activities regulated by the agency
8	From at least \$50 to at least \$100	The annual cost of an “expenditure” under the code for lobbyists if it is (1) paid communications on pending administrative or legislative action or (2) solicitations of another person to communicate with public officials or state employees to influence a legislative or administrative act (by law, expenditures are subject to various reporting requirements (for example, see CGS § 1-96))
10	From less than \$50 to less than \$100	The amount that someone may spend to benefit a public official in the legislative or executive branch

<b>Bill Section</b>	<b>Threshold Increase Under the Bill</b>	<b>Provision</b>
		without being considered a lobbyist (as long as they are not paid or reimbursed specifically for lobbying and spend five hours or less lobbying)
11	From up to \$100 to up to \$250	The monthly amount that a client lobbyist registrant that attempts to influence legislative action may spend or agree to spend for lobbying without having to file an interim monthly report on its lobbying activities during regular legislative session
12	From at least \$10 to at least \$20	The value of each expenditure per person to benefit a legislative or executive branch public official that must be reported on client lobbyist registrant financial reports
12	From less than \$30 to less than \$60	The amount of expenditures per person that do not have to be reported if they (1) benefit General Assembly members at an event open to all legislators or members of a particular region or (2) are personally and directly received by a public official or state employee at a charitable or civic event where they participate in their official capacity
13	From at least \$10 to at least \$20	The amount of each expenditure to benefit a public official that a former registrant must report if it occurs within six months after the end of their registration
14	From at least \$10 to at least \$20	The value of each expenditure to benefit a public official for which registrants must keep records for three years
14	From at least \$50 to at least \$100	The value of all other expenditures for which registrants must keep records for three years
15	From at least \$10 to at least \$20	The amount a registrant paid or reimbursed to a public official or state employee that triggers a requirement to file a statement with OSE

## BACKGROUND

### ***“Public Officials” Under the Code of Ethics***

Under the state Code of Ethics for Public Officials, a “public official” is any:

1. state-wide elected officer or officer-elect;
2. member or member-elect of the General Assembly;
3. person appointed to an office of the state government’s legislative, judicial, or executive branch by the governor or his

- appointee, with or without the legislature's advice and consent;
4. public member or representative of the teachers' unions or state employees' unions appointed to the Investment Advisory Council;
  5. person appointed or elected by the General Assembly or by any member of either legislative chamber;
  6. member or director of a quasi-public agency; or
  7. spouse of the governor.

Public officials under the code do not include advisory board members, judges of any court either elected or appointed, or senators or representatives in Congress (CGS § 1-79(11)).

### ***Related Bill***

sSB 323, reported favorably by the Government Oversight Committee, contains identical provisions concerning conflicts of interests, statements of financial interest, and the CEAB quorum requirement.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/20/2026)