



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 4951



Offered by:

REP. BLUMENTHAL, 147th Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5532

File No. 547

Cal. No. 367

"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."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

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4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*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

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

14 members shall be required for action of the board. The chairperson or
15 any three members may call a meeting.

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17 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*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

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

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

44 (b) (1) The statement of financial interests, except as provided in
45 subdivision (2) of this subsection, shall include the following

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

73 (2) In the case of securities in excess of five thousand dollars at fair
74 market value held within (A) a retirement savings plan, as described in
75 Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent
76 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended
77 from time to time, (B) a tax-sheltered annuity retirement plan, as
78 described in Section 403 of said Internal Revenue Code, (C) a payroll
79 deduction individual retirement account plan, as described in Section

80 408 or 408A of said Internal Revenue Code, [(C)] (D) a governmental
81 deferred compensation plan, as described in Section 457 of said Internal
82 Revenue Code, or [(D)] (E) an education savings plan, as described in
83 Section 529 of said Internal Revenue Code, the names of such securities
84 shall not be required to be disclosed in any statement of financial
85 interests and only the name of such retirement savings plan, tax-
86 sheltered annuity retirement plan, individual retirement account plan,
87 deferred compensation plan or education savings plan holding such
88 securities shall be required.

89 Sec. 3. Subsections (a) to (o), inclusive, of section 1-84 of the 2026
90 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
91 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

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

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

106 (c) No public official or state employee shall wilfully and knowingly
107 disclose, for financial gain, to any other person, confidential information
108 acquired by [him] such official or employee in the course of and by
109 reason of [his] such official's or employee's official duties or
110 employment and no public official or state employee shall use [his] such
111 official's or employee's public office or position or any confidential

112 information received through [his] such official's or employee's holding
113 such public office or position to obtain financial gain for [himself, his]
114 such official or employee, such official's or employee's spouse, child,
115 child's spouse, parent, brother or sister or a business with which he is
116 associated.

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

146 professional employee of a public institution of higher education if such
147 actions are not compensated and are not in violation of any other
148 provision of this chapter, (3) to any member of a board or commission
149 who receives no compensation other than per diem payments or
150 reimbursement for actual or necessary expenses, or both, incurred in the
151 performance of the member's duties, or (4) to any member or director of
152 a quasi-public agency. Notwithstanding the provisions of this
153 subsection to the contrary, a legislator, an officer of the General
154 Assembly or part-time legislative employee may be or become a
155 member or employee of a firm, partnership, association or professional
156 corporation which represents clients for compensation before agencies
157 listed in this subsection, provided the legislator, officer of the General
158 Assembly or part-time legislative employee shall take no part in any
159 matter involving the agency listed in this subsection and shall not
160 receive compensation from any such matter. Receipt of a previously
161 established salary, not based on the current or anticipated business of
162 the firm, partnership, association or professional corporation involving
163 the agencies listed in this subsection, shall be permitted.

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

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

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

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

189 (i) (1) No public official or state employee or member of the official's
190 or employee's immediate family or a business with which he or she is
191 associated shall enter into any contract with the state, valued at [one]
192 two hundred fifty dollars or more, unless (A) such contract is awarded
193 through an open and public process that includes, at a minimum, (i) pre-
194 award public disclosure of all offers to enter into such contract, and (ii)
195 post-award public disclosure of such contract, or (B) such contract is a
196 contract (i) of employment as a state employee, (ii) with the Technical
197 Education and Career System for students enrolled in a school in the
198 system to perform services in conjunction with vocational, technical,
199 technological or postsecondary education and training any such student
200 is receiving at a school in the system, subject to the review process under
201 subdivision (2) of this subsection, (iii) with a public institution of higher
202 education to support a collaboration with such institution to develop
203 and commercialize any invention or discovery, (iv) pursuant to a court
204 appointment, or (v) with the office of the Attorney General to be
205 retained as an expert witness for, or in anticipation of, litigation or an
206 administrative proceeding, provided the office of the Attorney General
207 files with the Office of State Ethics, in a form and manner prescribed by
208 the Office of State Ethics and not later than thirty days after the expert
209 witness is disclosed, or required to be disclosed, to the opposing party
210 or parties, either directly or through the court of competent jurisdiction
211 or administrative agency, or resolution of the litigation or

212 administrative proceeding for which the expert witness was retained,
213 whichever occurs first, a statement disclosing (I) the name of the expert
214 witness, (II) the qualifications of the expert witness, (III) the scope of the
215 services provided by the expert witness, (IV) the date of execution of
216 such contract, (V) the beginning and ending dates of the term of such
217 contract, and (VI) the value of such contract, if known by the office of
218 the Attorney General. In no event shall an executive head of an agency,
219 as defined in section 4-166, including a commissioner of a department,
220 or an executive head of a quasi-public agency, or the executive head's
221 immediate family or a business with which he is associated enter into
222 any contract with that agency or quasi-public agency. Nothing in this
223 subsection shall be construed as applying to any public official who is
224 appointed as a member of the executive branch or as a member or
225 director of a quasi-public agency and who receives no compensation
226 other than per diem payments or reimbursement for actual or necessary
227 expenses, or both, incurred in the performance of the public official's
228 duties unless such public official has authority or control over the
229 subject matter of the contract. Any contract made in violation of this
230 subsection shall be voidable by a court of competent jurisdiction if the
231 suit is commenced not later than one hundred eighty days after the
232 making of the contract. For purposes of this subdivision, "expert
233 witness" means any individual who is qualified to provide testimony on
234 any scientific, technical or other specialized matter by virtue of his or
235 her knowledge, skill, experience, training or education, and is retained
236 to provide his or her testimony on such matter, including, but not
237 limited to, in the form of an expert opinion.

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

242 (j) No public official, state employee or candidate for public office, or
243 a member of any such person's staff or immediate family shall
244 knowingly accept any gift, as defined in subdivision (5) of section 1-79,

245 as amended by this act, from a person known to be a registrant or
246 anyone known to be acting on behalf of a registrant.

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

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

278 contracts, agreements or business relationships for or on behalf of any
279 person.

280 (m) No public official or state employee shall knowingly accept,
281 directly or indirectly, any gift, as defined in subdivision (5) of section 1-
282 79, as amended by this act, from any person the public official or state
283 employee knows or has reason to know: (1) Is doing business with or
284 seeking to do business with the department or agency in which the
285 public official or state employee is employed; (2) is engaged in activities
286 which are directly regulated by such department or agency; or (3) is
287 prequalified under section 4a-100. No person shall knowingly give,
288 directly or indirectly, any gift or gifts in violation of this provision. For
289 the purposes of this subsection, the exclusion to the term "gift" in
290 subparagraph (L) of subdivision (5) of section 1-79, as amended by this
291 act, for a gift for the celebration of a major life event shall not apply. Any
292 person prohibited from making a gift under this subsection shall report
293 to the Office of State Ethics any solicitation of a gift from such person by
294 a state employee or public official.

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

310 (2) The State Treasurer shall not pay any compensation, expenses or

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

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

335 Sec. 4. Subdivision (5) of section 1-79 of the general statutes is
336 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
337 *1, 2026*):

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

341 (A) A political contribution otherwise reported as required by law or
342 a donation or payment as described in subdivision (9) or (10) of

343 subsection (b) of section 9-601a;

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

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

350 (D) A gift received from (i) an individual's spouse, fiancé or fiancée,
351 (ii) the parent, grandparent, brother or sister of such spouse or such
352 individual, or (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such
353 child;

354 (E) Goods or services (i) that are provided to a state agency or quasi-
355 public agency (I) for use on state or quasi-public agency property, or (II)
356 that support an event or the participation by a public official or state
357 employee at an event, and (ii) that facilitate state or quasi-public agency
358 action or functions. As used in this subparagraph, "state property"
359 means property owned by the state or a quasi-public agency or property
360 leased to a state agency or quasi-public agency;

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

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

365 (H) Printed or recorded informational material germane to state
366 action or functions;

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

372 (J) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred
373 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed legislative
374 reception to which all members of the General Assembly are invited and
375 which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist
376 or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i) a reception
377 hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also
378 been hosted by the business organization which such lobbyist owns or
379 is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a business organization
380 shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees
381 of the business organization who are lobbyists. In making the
382 calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-hundred-dollar
383 limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food and beverage by
384 the number of persons whom the donor reasonably expects to attend the
385 reception;

386 (K) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred
387 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed reception to
388 which all members of the General Assembly from a region of the state
389 are invited and which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year
390 by a lobbyist or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i)
391 a reception hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed
392 to have also been hosted by the business organization which such
393 lobbyist owns or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a
394 business organization shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all
395 owners and employees of the business organization who are lobbyists.
396 In making the calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-
397 hundred-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food
398 and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor reasonably
399 expects to attend the reception. As used in this subparagraph, "region of
400 the state" means the established geographic service area of the
401 organization hosting the reception;

402 (L) A gift, including, but not limited to, food or beverage or both,
403 provided by an individual for the celebration of a major life event,
404 provided any such gift provided by an individual who is not a member

405 of the family of the recipient does not exceed one thousand five hundred
406 dollars in value;

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

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

417 (O) Anything of value provided by an employer of (i) a public official,
418 (ii) a state employee, or (iii) a spouse of a public official or state
419 employee, to such official, employee or spouse, provided such benefits
420 are customarily and ordinarily provided to others in similar
421 circumstances;

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

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

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

434 (S) Expenses of a public official, paid by the party committee of which

435 party such official is a member, for the purpose of accomplishing the
436 lawful purposes of the committee. As used in this subparagraph, "party
437 committee" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (2) of
438 section 9-601 and "lawful purposes of the committee" has the same
439 meaning as provided in subsection (g) of section 9-607; [or]

440 (T) Travel expenses, lodging, food, beverage and other benefits
441 customarily provided in the course of employment, when provided to a
442 public member of the Investment Advisory Council established under
443 section 3-13b; or

444 (U) Admission to an intercollegiate sporting event in the state hosted
445 by a constituent unit, as defined in section 10a-1, at the invitation of the
446 constituent unit, when provided to a public official or state employee
447 and not more than one guest of such public official or state employee
448 not more than once per calendar year.

449 Sec. 5. Subdivision (6) of section 1-91 of the general statutes is
450 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
451 *1, 2026*):

452 (6) "Expenditure" means any advance, conveyance, deposit,
453 distribution, transfer of funds, loan, payment, unless expressly
454 excluded; any payments for telephone, mailing, postage, printing and
455 other clerical or office services and materials; any paid communications,
456 costing [fifty] one hundred dollars or more in any calendar year,
457 disseminated by means of any printing, broadcasting or other medium,
458 provided such communications refer to pending administrative or
459 legislative action; any contract, agreement, promise or other obligation;
460 any solicitation or solicitations, costing [fifty] one hundred dollars or
461 more in the aggregate for any calendar year, of other persons to
462 communicate with a public official or state employee for the purpose of
463 influencing any legislative or administrative act and any pledge,
464 subscription of money or anything of value. "Expenditure" does not
465 include (A) the payment of a registrant's fee pursuant to section 1-95, (B)
466 any expenditure made by any club, committee, partnership,

467 organization, business, union, association or corporation for the
468 purpose of publishing a newsletter or other release intended primarily
469 for its members, shareholders or employees, whether in written or
470 electronic form or made orally during a regularly noticed meeting, (C)
471 any expenditure made by any club, committee, partnership,
472 organization, business, union, association or corporation for the
473 purpose of transporting its members, shareholders or employees to or
474 from a specific site, where such members, shareholders or employees
475 received no other compensation or reimbursement for lobbying from
476 such club, committee, partnership, organization, business, union,
477 association or corporation, or (D) contributions, membership dues or
478 other fees paid to associations, nonstock corporations or tax-exempt
479 organizations under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,
480 or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United
481 States, as amended from time to time. [amended.]

482 Sec. 6. Subdivision (7) of section 1-91 of the general statutes is
483 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
484 *1, 2026*):

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

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

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

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

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

498 (ii) the parent, grandparent, brother or sister of such spouse or such
499 individual, or (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such
500 child;

501 (E) Goods or services (i) that are provided to a state agency or quasi-
502 public agency (I) for use on state or quasi-public agency property, or (II)
503 that support an event or the participation by a public official or state
504 employee at an event, and (ii) that facilitate state or quasi-public agency
505 action or functions. As used in this subparagraph, "state property"
506 means property owned by the state or a quasi-public agency or property
507 leased to a state or quasi-public agency;

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

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

512 (H) Printed or recorded informational material germane to state
513 action or functions;

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

519 (J) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred
520 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed legislative
521 reception to which all members of the General Assembly are invited and
522 which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist
523 or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i) a reception
524 hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also
525 been hosted by the business organization which [he] such lobbyist owns
526 or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a business organization
527 shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees
528 of the business organization who are lobbyists. In making the

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

533 (K) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred
534 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed reception to
535 which all members of the General Assembly from a region of the state
536 are invited and which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year
537 by a lobbyist or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i)
538 a reception hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed
539 to have also been hosted by the business organization which [he] such
540 lobbyist owns or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a
541 business organization shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all
542 owners and employees of the business organization who are lobbyists.
543 In making the calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-
544 hundred-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food
545 and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor reasonably
546 expects to attend the reception. As used in this subparagraph, "region of
547 the state" means the established geographic service area of the
548 organization hosting the reception;

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

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

559 (N) Admission to a charitable or civic event, including food and
560 beverage provided at such event, but excluding lodging or travel

561 expenses, at which a public official or state employee participates in his
562 or her official capacity, provided such admission is provided by the
563 primary sponsoring entity;

564 (O) Anything of value provided by an employer of (i) a public official,
565 (ii) a state employee, or (iii) a spouse of a public official or state
566 employee, to such official, employee or spouse, provided such benefits
567 are customarily and ordinarily provided to others in similar
568 circumstances;

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

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

576 Sec. 7. Subdivision (12) of section 1-91 of the general statutes is
577 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
578 *1, 2026*):

579 (12) "Lobbyist" means a person who in lobbying and in furtherance
580 of lobbying makes or agrees to make expenditures, or receives or agrees
581 to receive compensation, reimbursement, or both, and such
582 compensation, reimbursement or expenditures are three thousand
583 dollars or more in any calendar year or the combined amount thereof is
584 three thousand dollars or more in any such calendar year. "Lobbyist"
585 does not include:

586 (A) A public official, employee of a branch of state government or a
587 subdivision thereof, including an official or employee of a quasi-public
588 agency, or elected or appointed official of a municipality or his or her
589 designee other than an independent contractor, who is acting within the
590 scope of his or her authority or employment;

591 (B) A publisher, owner or an employee of the press, radio or
592 television while disseminating news or editorial comment to the general
593 public in the ordinary course of business;

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

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

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

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

607 (G) Any person who receives no compensation or reimbursement
608 specifically for lobbying and who spends no more than five hours in
609 furtherance of lobbying unless such person (i) exclusive of salary,
610 receives compensation or makes expenditures, or both, of three
611 thousand dollars or more in any calendar year for lobbying or the
612 combined amount thereof is three thousand dollars or more in any such
613 calendar year, or (ii) expends [fifty] one hundred dollars or more for the
614 benefit of a public official in the legislative or executive branch, a
615 member of his or her staff or immediate family;

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

619 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is repealed
620 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

621 (a) Each client lobbyist registrant shall file with the Office of State
622 Ethics between the first and tenth day of April, July and January a
623 financial report, signed under penalty of false statement. The April and
624 July reports shall cover its lobbying activities during the previous
625 calendar quarter and the January report shall cover its lobbying
626 activities during the previous two calendar quarters. In addition to such
627 reports, each client lobbyist registrant which attempts to influence
628 legislative action shall file, under penalty of false statement, interim
629 monthly reports of its lobbying activities for each month the General
630 Assembly is in regular session, except that no monthly report shall be
631 required for any month in which it neither expends nor agrees to expend
632 [one] two hundred fifty dollars or more in furtherance of lobbying. Such
633 interim monthly reports shall be filed with the Office of State Ethics no
634 later than the tenth day of the month following the last day of the month
635 reported. If the client lobbyist registrant is not an individual, an
636 authorized officer or agent of the client lobbyist registrant shall sign the
637 form. A communicator lobbyist for a municipality or any subdivision of
638 a municipality shall file the reports described in this subsection utilizing
639 the client lobbyist reporting schedule.

640 Sec. 9. Subsection (e) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is repealed
641 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

642 (e) Each client lobbyist registrant financial report shall be on a form
643 prescribed by the board and shall state expenditures made and the
644 fundamental terms of contracts, agreements or promises to pay
645 compensation or reimbursement or to make expenditures in furtherance
646 of lobbying. Any such fundamental terms shall be reported once in the
647 monthly, quarterly or post-termination report next following the
648 entering into of such contract. Such financial report shall include an
649 itemized statement of each expenditure of [ten] twenty dollars or more
650 per person for each occasion made by the reporting registrant or a group
651 of registrants which includes the reporting registrant for the benefit of a
652 public official in the legislative or executive branch, a member of his
653 staff or immediate family, itemized by date, beneficiary, amount and

654 circumstances of the transaction. The requirement of an itemized
655 statement shall not apply to an expenditure made by a reporting
656 registrant or a group of registrants which includes the reporting
657 registrant for (1) the benefit of the members of the General Assembly at
658 an event that is a reception to which all such members are invited or all
659 members of a region of the state, as such term is used in subparagraph
660 (K) of subdivision (7) of section 1-91, as amended by this act, are invited,
661 unless the expenditure is [thirty] sixty dollars or more per person, or (2)
662 benefits personally and directly received by a public official or state
663 employee at a charitable or civic event at which the public official or
664 state employee participates in his official capacity, unless the
665 expenditure is [thirty] sixty dollars or more per person, per event. If the
666 compensation is required to be reported for an individual whose
667 lobbying is incidental to his or her regular employment, it shall be
668 sufficient to report a prorated amount based on the value of the time
669 devoted to lobbying. On the first financial report following registration
670 each client lobbyist registrant shall include any expenditures incident to
671 lobbying activities that were received or expended prior to registration
672 and not previously reported to the Office of State Ethics.

673 Sec. 10. Subsection (g) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is
674 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
675 *1, 2026*):

676 (g) Each former registrant shall (1) report receipts or expenditures
677 incident to lobbying activities during [his] such registrant's period of
678 registration which are received or expended following termination of
679 registration and (2) report each expenditure of [ten] twenty dollars or
680 more per person for each occasion made by [him] such registrant for the
681 benefit of a public official or a member of such official's immediate
682 family or staff which occurs within six months after termination of
683 registration.

684 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 1-96a of the general statutes is
685 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
686 *1, 2026*):

687 (a) Each registrant shall obtain and preserve all accounts, bills,
 688 receipts and other documents necessary to substantiate the financial
 689 reports required by section 1-96, as amended by this act, for a period of
 690 three years from the date of the filing of the report referring to such
 691 financial matters, provided this section shall apply to each expenditure
 692 for the benefit of a public official of [~~ten~~] twenty dollars or more and all
 693 other expenditures of [~~fifty~~] one hundred dollars or more.

694 Sec. 12. Section 1-96e of the general statutes is repealed and the
 695 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

696 Each registrant who pays or reimburses a public official or state
 697 employee [~~ten~~] twenty dollars or more for necessary expenses, as
 698 defined in section 1-79, as amended by this act, shall, within forty-five
 699 days of such payment or reimbursement, file a statement with the Office
 700 of State Ethics indicating the name of such individual and the amount
 701 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(a) to (o)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-79(5)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-91(6)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-91(7)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-91(12)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-96(a)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-96(e)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-96(g)
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-96a(a)
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	1-96e