



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 126

January Session, 2025

Senate Bill No. 1227

Senate, March 19, 2025

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. FLEXER of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT INCREASING VARIOUS MONETARY THRESHOLDS UNDER THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (5) of section 1-79 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2025*):

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

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

10 (B) Services provided by persons volunteering their time, if provided
11 to aid or promote the success or defeat of any political party, any
12 candidate or candidates for public office or the position of convention

13 delegate or town committee member or any referendum question;

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

16 (D) A gift received from (i) an individual's spouse, fiancé or fiancée,
17 (ii) the parent, grandparent, brother or sister of such spouse or such
18 individual, or (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such
19 child;

20 (E) Goods or services (i) that are provided to a state agency or quasi-
21 public agency (I) for use on state or quasi-public agency property, or (II)
22 that support an event or the participation by a public official or state
23 employee at an event, and (ii) that facilitate state or quasi-public agency
24 action or functions. As used in this subparagraph, "state property"
25 means property owned by the state or a quasi-public agency or property
26 leased to a state agency or quasi-public agency;

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

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

31 (H) Printed or recorded informational material germane to state
32 action or functions;

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

38 (J) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred
39 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed legislative
40 reception to which all members of the General Assembly are invited and
41 which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist
42 or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i) a reception

43 hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also
44 been hosted by the business organization which such lobbyist owns or
45 is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a business organization
46 shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees
47 of the business organization who are lobbyists. In making the
48 calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-hundred-dollar
49 limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food and beverage by
50 the number of persons whom the donor reasonably expects to attend the
51 reception;

52 (K) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred
53 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed reception to
54 which all members of the General Assembly from a region of the state
55 are invited and which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year
56 by a lobbyist or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i)
57 a reception hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed
58 to have also been hosted by the business organization which such
59 lobbyist owns or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a
60 business organization shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all
61 owners and employees of the business organization who are lobbyists.
62 In making the calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-
63 hundred-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food
64 and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor reasonably
65 expects to attend the reception. As used in this subparagraph, "region of
66 the state" means the established geographic service area of the
67 organization hosting the reception;

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

73 (M) Gifts costing less than [one] two hundred fifty dollars in the
74 aggregate or food or beverage provided at a hospitality suite at a
75 meeting or conference of an interstate legislative association, by a

76 person who is not a registrant or is not doing business with the state of
77 Connecticut;

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

83 (O) Anything of value provided by an employer of (i) a public official,
84 (ii) a state employee, or (iii) a spouse of a public official or state
85 employee, to such official, employee or spouse, provided such benefits
86 are customarily and ordinarily provided to others in similar
87 circumstances;

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

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

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

100 (S) Expenses of a public official, paid by the party committee of which
101 party such official is a member, for the purpose of accomplishing the
102 lawful purposes of the committee. As used in this subparagraph, "party
103 committee" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (2) of
104 section 9-601 and "lawful purposes of the committee" has the same
105 meaning as provided in subsection (g) of section 9-607; or

106 (T) Travel expenses, lodging, food, beverage and other benefits

107 customarily provided in the course of employment, when provided to a
108 public member of the Investment Advisory Council established under
109 section 3-13b.

110 Sec. 2. Subsection (i) of section 1-84 of the general statutes is repealed
111 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

112 (i) (1) No public official or state employee or member of the official
113 or employee's immediate family or a business with which he is
114 associated shall enter into any contract with the state, valued at [one]
115 two hundred fifty dollars or more, other than a contract (A) of
116 employment as a state employee, (B) with the Technical Education and
117 Career System for students enrolled in a school in the system to perform
118 services in conjunction with vocational, technical, technological or
119 postsecondary education and training any such student is receiving at a
120 school in the system, subject to the review process under subdivision (2)
121 of this subsection, (C) with a public institution of higher education to
122 support a collaboration with such institution to develop and
123 commercialize any invention or discovery, or (D) pursuant to a court
124 appointment, unless the contract has been awarded through an open
125 and public process, including prior public offer and subsequent public
126 disclosure of all proposals considered and the contract awarded. In no
127 event shall an executive head of an agency, as defined in section 4-166,
128 including a commissioner of a department, or an executive head of a
129 quasi-public agency, or the executive head's immediate family or a
130 business with which he is associated enter into any contract with that
131 agency or quasi-public agency. Nothing in this subsection shall be
132 construed as applying to any public official who is appointed as a
133 member of the executive branch or as a member or director of a quasi-
134 public agency and who receives no compensation other than per diem
135 payments or reimbursement for actual or necessary expenses, or both,
136 incurred in the performance of the public official's duties unless such
137 public official has authority or control over the subject matter of the
138 contract. Any contract made in violation of this subsection shall be
139 voidable by a court of competent jurisdiction if the suit is commenced
140 not later than one hundred eighty days after the making of the contract.

141 (2) The superintendent of the Technical Education and Career System
142 shall establish an open and transparent process to review any contract
143 entered into under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this
144 subsection.

145 Sec. 3. Subsection (o) of section 1-84 of the general statutes is repealed
146 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

147 (o) If (1) any person (A) is doing business with or seeking to do
148 business with the department or agency in which a public official or
149 state employee is employed, or (B) is engaged in activities which are
150 directly regulated by such department or agency, and (2) such person or
151 a representative of such person gives to such public official or state
152 employee anything having a value of more than [ten] twenty dollars,
153 such person or representative shall, not later than ten days thereafter,
154 give such recipient and the executive head of the recipient's department
155 or agency a written report stating the name of the donor, a description
156 of the item or items given, the value of such items and the cumulative
157 value of all items given to such recipient during that calendar year. The
158 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a political contribution
159 otherwise reported as required by law.

160 Sec. 4. Subdivision (6) of section 1-91 of the general statutes is
161 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
162 *1, 2025*):

163 (6) "Expenditure" means any advance, conveyance, deposit,
164 distribution, transfer of funds, loan, payment, unless expressly
165 excluded; any payments for telephone, mailing, postage, printing and
166 other clerical or office services and materials; any paid communications,
167 costing [fifty] one hundred dollars or more in any calendar year,
168 disseminated by means of any printing, broadcasting or other medium,
169 provided such communications refer to pending administrative or
170 legislative action; any contract, agreement, promise or other obligation;
171 any solicitation or solicitations, costing [fifty] one hundred dollars or
172 more in the aggregate for any calendar year, of other persons to
173 communicate with a public official or state employee for the purpose of

174 influencing any legislative or administrative act and any pledge,
175 subscription of money or anything of value. "Expenditure" does not
176 include (A) the payment of a registrant's fee pursuant to section 1-95, (B)
177 any expenditure made by any club, committee, partnership,
178 organization, business, union, association or corporation for the
179 purpose of publishing a newsletter or other release intended primarily
180 for its members, shareholders or employees, whether in written or
181 electronic form or made orally during a regularly noticed meeting, (C)
182 any expenditure made by any club, committee, partnership,
183 organization, business, union, association or corporation for the
184 purpose of transporting its members, shareholders or employees to or
185 from a specific site, where such members, shareholders or employees
186 received no other compensation or reimbursement for lobbying from
187 such club, committee, partnership, organization, business, union,
188 association or corporation, or (D) contributions, membership dues or
189 other fees paid to associations, nonstock corporations or tax-exempt
190 organizations under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,
191 or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United
192 States, as [from time to time] amended from time to time.

193 Sec. 5. Subdivision (7) of section 1-91 of the general statutes is
194 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
195 *1, 2025*):

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

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

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

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

208 (D) A gift received from (i) the individual's spouse, fiancé or fiancée,
209 (ii) the parent, grandparent, brother or sister of such spouse or such
210 individual, or (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such
211 child;

212 (E) Goods or services (i) that are provided to a state agency or quasi-
213 public agency (I) for use on state or quasi-public agency property, or (II)
214 that support an event or the participation by a public official or state
215 employee at an event, and (ii) that facilitate state or quasi-public agency
216 action or functions. As used in this subparagraph, "state property"
217 means property owned by the state or a quasi-public agency or property
218 leased to a state or quasi-public agency;

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

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

223 (H) Printed or recorded informational material germane to state
224 action or functions;

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

230 (J) Food or beverage or both, costing less than ~~[fifty]~~ one hundred
231 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed legislative
232 reception to which all members of the General Assembly are invited and
233 which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist
234 or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i) a reception
235 hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also
236 been hosted by the business organization which ~~[he]~~ such lobbyist owns

237 or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a business organization
238 shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees
239 of the business organization who are lobbyists. In making the
240 calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-hundred-dollar
241 limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food and beverage by
242 the number of persons whom the donor reasonably expects to attend the
243 reception;

244 (K) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred
245 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed reception to
246 which all members of the General Assembly from a region of the state
247 are invited and which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year
248 by a lobbyist or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i)
249 a reception hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed
250 to have also been hosted by the business organization which [he] such
251 lobbyist owns or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a
252 business organization shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all
253 owners and employees of the business organization who are lobbyists.
254 In making the calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-
255 hundred-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food
256 and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor reasonably
257 expects to attend the reception. As used in this subparagraph, "region of
258 the state" means the established geographic service area of the
259 organization hosting the reception;

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

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

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

275 (O) Anything of value provided by an employer of (i) a public official,
276 (ii) a state employee, or (iii) a spouse of a public official or state
277 employee, to such official, employee or spouse, provided such benefits
278 are customarily and ordinarily provided to others in similar
279 circumstances;

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

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

287 Sec. 6. Subdivision (12) of section 1-91 of the general statutes is
288 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
289 *1, 2025*):

290 (12) "Lobbyist" means a person who in lobbying and in furtherance
291 of lobbying makes or agrees to make expenditures, or receives or agrees
292 to receive compensation, reimbursement, or both, and such
293 compensation, reimbursement or expenditures are three thousand
294 dollars or more in any calendar year or the combined amount thereof is
295 three thousand dollars or more in any such calendar year. "Lobbyist"
296 does not include:

297 (A) A public official, employee of a branch of state government or a
298 subdivision thereof, including an official or employee of a quasi-public
299 agency, or elected or appointed official of a municipality or his or her
300 designee other than an independent contractor, who is acting within the

301 scope of his or her authority or employment;

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

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

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

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

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

318 (G) Any person who receives no compensation or reimbursement
319 specifically for lobbying and who spends no more than five hours in
320 furtherance of lobbying unless such person (i) exclusive of salary,
321 receives compensation or makes expenditures, or both, of three
322 thousand dollars or more in any calendar year for lobbying or the
323 combined amount thereof is three thousand dollars or more in any such
324 calendar year, or (ii) expends [fifty] one hundred dollars or more for the
325 benefit of a public official in the legislative or executive branch, a
326 member of his or her staff or immediate family;

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

330 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is repealed

331 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

332 (a) Each client lobbyist registrant shall file with the Office of State
333 Ethics between the first and tenth day of April, July and January a
334 financial report, signed under penalty of false statement. The April and
335 July reports shall cover its lobbying activities during the previous
336 calendar quarter and the January report shall cover its lobbying
337 activities during the previous two calendar quarters. In addition to such
338 reports, each client lobbyist registrant which attempts to influence
339 legislative action shall file, under penalty of false statement, interim
340 monthly reports of its lobbying activities for each month the General
341 Assembly is in regular session, except that no monthly report shall be
342 required for any month in which it neither expends nor agrees to expend
343 [one] two hundred fifty dollars or more in furtherance of lobbying. Such
344 interim monthly reports shall be filed with the Office of State Ethics no
345 later than the tenth day of the month following the last day of the month
346 reported. If the client lobbyist registrant is not an individual, an
347 authorized officer or agent of the client lobbyist registrant shall sign the
348 form. A communicator lobbyist for a municipality or any subdivision of
349 a municipality shall file the reports described in this subsection utilizing
350 the client lobbyist reporting schedule.

351 Sec. 8. Subsection (e) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is repealed
352 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

353 (e) Each client lobbyist registrant financial report shall be on a form
354 prescribed by the board and shall state expenditures made and the
355 fundamental terms of contracts, agreements or promises to pay
356 compensation or reimbursement or to make expenditures in furtherance
357 of lobbying. Any such fundamental terms shall be reported once in the
358 monthly, quarterly or post-termination report next following the
359 entering into of such contract. Such financial report shall include an
360 itemized statement of each expenditure of [ten] twenty dollars or more
361 per person for each occasion made by the reporting registrant or a group
362 of registrants which includes the reporting registrant for the benefit of a
363 public official in the legislative or executive branch, a member of his or

364 her staff or immediate family, itemized by date, beneficiary, amount and
365 circumstances of the transaction. The requirement of an itemized
366 statement shall not apply to an expenditure made by a reporting
367 registrant or a group of registrants which includes the reporting
368 registrant for (1) the benefit of the members of the General Assembly at
369 an event that is a reception to which all such members are invited or all
370 members of a region of the state, as such term is used in subparagraph
371 (K) of subdivision (7) of section 1-91, as amended by this act, are invited,
372 unless the expenditure is [thirty] sixty dollars or more per person, or (2)
373 benefits personally and directly received by a public official or state
374 employee at a charitable or civic event at which the public official or
375 state employee participates in his or her official capacity, unless the
376 expenditure is [thirty] sixty dollars or more per person, per event. If the
377 compensation is required to be reported for an individual whose
378 lobbying is incidental to his or her regular employment, it shall be
379 sufficient to report a prorated amount based on the value of the time
380 devoted to lobbying. On the first financial report following registration
381 each client lobbyist registrant shall include any expenditures incident to
382 lobbying activities that were received or expended prior to registration
383 and not previously reported to the Office of State Ethics.

384 Sec. 9. Subsection (g) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is repealed
385 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

386 (g) Each former registrant shall (1) report receipts or expenditures
387 incident to lobbying activities during his or her period of registration
388 which are received or expended following termination of registration
389 and (2) report each expenditure of [ten] twenty dollars or more per
390 person for each occasion made by [him] such registrant for the benefit
391 of a public official or a member of such official's immediate family or
392 staff which occurs within six months after termination of registration.

393 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 1-96a of the general statutes is
394 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
395 *1, 2025*):

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

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

403 Sec. 11. Section 1-96e of the general statutes is repealed and the
 404 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

405 Each registrant who pays or reimburses a public official or state
 406 employee [ten] twenty dollars or more for necessary expenses, as
 407 defined in section 1-79, as amended by this act, shall, within forty-five
 408 days, file a statement with the Office of State Ethics indicating the name
 409 of such individual and the amount of the expenses.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	1-79(5)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	1-84(i)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	1-84(o)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	1-91(6)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	1-91(7)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	1-91(12)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	1-96(a)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	1-96(e)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	1-96(g)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	1-96a(a)
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2025</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.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill increases existing financial thresholds in the code of state ethics, which determines whether a gift is subject to existing prohibitions or reporting requirements resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1227*****AN ACT INCREASING VARIOUS MONETARY THRESHOLDS UNDER THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS.*****SUMMARY**

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 are worth more than a certain amount.

This 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 (e.g., 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

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

§§ 1 & 5 — GIFTS

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 (§ 1) or the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists (§ 5). 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 (CGS § 1-84(g)); (2) knowingly accepting a gift from a known registered lobbyist (CGS § 1-84(j)); 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(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 is not a registered lobbyist or doing business with Connecticut	Less than \$100	Less than \$250
Anything with a certain value	Less than \$10 for individual items and	Less than \$20 for individual items and

<i>Gift</i>	<i>Current Exempted Gift Value</i>	<i>Exempted Gift Value Under the Bill</i>
	less than \$50 total value for all things provided by a donor to a recipient in a calendar year	less than \$100 total value for all things provided by a donor to a recipient in a calendar year

§§ 2-11 — OTHER PROHIBITIONS, REQUIREMENTS, AND CONDITIONS

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 provision to which it applies.

Table: Thresholds for Other Prohibitions, Requirements, and Conditions

<i>Bill Section</i>	<i>Threshold Increase Under the Bill</i>	<i>Provision</i>
2	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
4	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 (e.g., CGS § 1-96))
6	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 without being considered a lobbyist (as long as they are not paid or reimbursed specifically for lobbying and spend five hours or less lobbying)

Bill Section	Threshold Increase Under the Bill	Provision
7	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
8	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
8	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
9	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
10	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
10	From at least \$50 to at least \$100	The value of all other expenditures for which registrants must keep records for three years
11	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 the Office of State Ethics

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 1 (02/28/2025)