

# Government Administration and Elections Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1227

AN ACT INCREASING VARIOUS MONETARY THRESHOLDS UNDER THE

**Title:** STATE CODES OF ETHICS.

**Vote Date:** 2/28/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/7/2025

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The previous monetary thresholds in the state code of ethics were established in 1997. There has been a significant increase in consumer goods and services due to various economic influences such as inflation. This bill seeks to make corrections to the monetary thresholds in the state codes of ethics and get their limits in line with current economic prices.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

#### **Peter Lewandowski, Executive Director, Office of State Ethics:**

It has been almost 30 years since the last amendment to the monetary thresholds and goods and services have risen over time this office supports reasonable increases to various gift exceptions and reporting requirements. This bill is similar to prior legislation for municipalities but does require a minimum adoption of a conflict-of-interest provision that is universally accepted. OSE will provide a model policy and legal support to any town who wishes to update their policies so as not to put an unnecessary financial burden on municipal budgets.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Chris Senecal, Sr. Public Policy Officer, Hartford Foundation:**

As a registered lobbying organization, we include a question on all of its RSVP forms asking guests to identify if they are a public official, state employee, or immediate family member of either. Many of our events offer refreshments and we try not to exceed the \$10 but with current food prices it is nearly impossible. When the \$50 threshold is exceeded, we send a bill requesting reimbursement. Some of our stakeholders have reduced their attendance due to receiving a bill for an event. The limits currently were placed in 1997 and they need to be adjusted for inflation. We suggest this legislation include a mechanism to regularly consider and adjust various thresholds on food, beverages and gifts for inflation.

### **Kathryn Wood, Director, Community Integration or Midstate Arc:**

This bill takes several steps to improve the issues nonprofits face from the state to deliver health and human services. The bill repeals to unnecessary sections that restrict a nonprofit's ability to compensate their executive directors at a rate that would attract qualified staff and pay them a salary that matches the cost of living.

**Lorayna Hinton** supports the bill and the freedoms it provides.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None submitted

**Reported by: Pamela Bianca**

**Date: March 4, 2025**