

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 18-64—sSB 176

Government Administration and Elections Committee

AN ACT REQUIRING THE REPORTING OF CERTAIN GIFTS TO THE STATE UNDER THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

SUMMARY: This act requires public officials and state employees to file a report with the Office of State Ethics within 30 days after receiving certain goods or services under the Code of Ethics’ “gift to the state” exception.

The act’s reporting requirement applies to goods or services that support the individual’s participation at an event (e.g., a conference) that facilitates a state or quasi-public agency action or function (i.e., the event is relevant to his or her state job). Such “gifts to the state” include lodging, out-of-state travel, or both and are provided by donors, other than the federal or another state government.

Under the act, the report must be on an electronic form prescribed by the Citizen’s Ethics Advisory Board and certify, under penalty of false statement, that the received goods or services facilitated state action or functions. Officials or employees who fail to report within the 30-day period, either intentionally or due to gross negligence, must return to the donor the value of the goods or services received and may be subject to additional penalties. By law, the penalty for false statement is a class A misdemeanor (see Table on Penalties).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018