



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 6574

LCO No. 4407



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO 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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*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, 2021*):

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, [fiance or fiancée]
17 fiancé or fiancée, (ii) the parent, grandparent, brother or sister of such
18 spouse or such individual, or (iii) the child of such individual or the
19 spouse of such 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 hundred 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 dollars in the
34 aggregate per recipient in a calendar year, and consumed on an occasion
35 or occasions at which the person paying, directly or indirectly, for the
36 food or beverage, or his representative, is in attendance;

37 (J) Food or beverage or both, costing less than fifty dollars per person
38 and consumed at a publicly noticed legislative reception to which all
39 members of the General Assembly are invited and which is hosted not
40 more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist or business
41 organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i) a reception hosted by a
42 lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also been hosted
43 by the business organization which such lobbyist owns or is employed

44 by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a business organization shall be
45 deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees of the
46 business organization who are lobbyists. In making the calculation for
47 the purposes of such fifty-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount
48 spent on food and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor
49 reasonably expects to attend the reception;

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

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

70 (M) Gifts costing less than one hundred dollars in the aggregate or
71 food or beverage provided at a hospitality suite at a meeting or
72 conference of an interstate legislative association, by a person who is not
73 a registrant or is not doing business with the state of Connecticut;

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

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

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

84 (P) Anything having a value of not more than ten dollars, provided
85 the aggregate value of all things provided by a donor to a recipient
86 under this subdivision in any calendar year does not exceed fifty dollars;

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

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

95 (S) Expenses of a public official, paid by the party committee of which
96 party such official is a member, for the purpose of accomplishing the
97 lawful purposes of the committee. As used in this subparagraph, "party
98 committee" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (2) of
99 section 9-601 and "lawful purposes of the committee" has the same
100 meaning as provided in subsection (g) of section 9-607.

101 Sec. 2. Subdivision (12) of section 1-79 of the general statutes is
102 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
103 *2021*):

104 (12) "Quasi-public agency" means Connecticut Innovations,
105 Incorporated, the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities

106 Authority, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan
107 Authority, the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation, the Connecticut
108 Housing Finance Authority, the State Housing Authority, the Materials
109 Innovation and Recycling Authority, the Capital Region Development
110 Authority, the Connecticut Lottery Corporation, the Connecticut
111 Airport Authority, the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, the
112 Connecticut Green Bank, the Connecticut Retirement Security
113 Authority, the Connecticut Port Authority, the Connecticut Municipal
114 Redevelopment Authority, [and] the State Education Resource Center
115 and the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority.

116 Sec. 3. Section 1-79 of the general statutes is amended by adding
117 subdivision (21) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

118 (NEW) (21) "Confidential information" means any information in the
119 possession of the state, a state employee or a public official, whatever its
120 form, which (A) is required not to be disclosed to the general public (i)
121 under any state or federal statute, regulation, policy or provision, or (ii)
122 pursuant to a state contract or the order of any court of competent
123 jurisdiction; or (B) falls within a category of permissibly nondisclosable
124 information under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section
125 1-200, and which the appropriate agency, state employee or public
126 official has decided not to disclose to the general public.

127 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 1-81 of the general statutes is repealed
128 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

129 (c) The Office of State Ethics shall employ an executive director,
130 general counsel and ethics enforcement officer, each of whom shall be
131 exempt from classified state service. The ethics enforcement officer shall
132 be a member of the bar of this state. The salary for the executive director,
133 general counsel and the ethics enforcement officer shall be determined
134 by the Commissioner of Administrative Services in accordance with
135 accepted personnel practices. No one person may serve in more than
136 one of the positions described in this subsection. The Office of State
137 Ethics may employ necessary staff within available appropriations.

138 Such necessary staff of the Office of State Ethics shall be in classified
139 state service.

140 Sec. 5. Subsection (g) of section 1-81 of the general statutes is repealed
141 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

142 (g) There shall be an enforcement division within the Office of State
143 Ethics. The enforcement division shall be responsible for investigating
144 complaints brought to or by the board. The ethics enforcement officer,
145 described in subsection (c) of this section, shall supervise the
146 enforcement division. The ethics enforcement officer may represent the
147 Office of State Ethics before the Superior Court in an appeal of any
148 ruling or finding pursuant to, or any matter arising under, section 1-82,
149 as amended by this act, 1-93, as amended by this act, or 1-101nn,
150 provided the board is not a party in such appeal. The enforcement
151 division shall employ such attorneys and investigators, as necessary,
152 within available appropriations, and may refer matters to the office of
153 the Chief State's Attorney, as appropriate.

154 Sec. 6. Subsection (b) of section 1-82 of the general statutes is repealed
155 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

156 (b) If a judge trial referee determines that probable cause exists for
157 the violation of a provision of this part, section 1-101bb or section 1-
158 101nn, the board shall initiate hearings to determine whether there has
159 been a violation of this part, section 1-101bb or section 1-101nn. Any
160 such hearing shall be initiated by the board not later than thirty days
161 after the finding of probable cause by a judge trial referee and shall be
162 concluded not later than ninety days after its initiation, except that such
163 thirty or ninety-day limitation period shall not apply if the judge trial
164 referee determines that good cause exists for extending such limitation
165 period. A judge trial referee, who has not taken part in the probable
166 cause determination on the matter shall be assigned by the Chief Court
167 Administrator and shall be compensated in accordance with section 52-
168 434 out of funds available to the Office of State Ethics. Such judge trial
169 referee shall preside over such hearing and rule on all issues concerning

170 the application of the rules of evidence, which shall be the same as in
171 judicial proceedings. The judge trial referee shall have no vote in any
172 decision of the board. All hearings of the board held pursuant to this
173 subsection shall be open. At such hearing the board shall have the same
174 powers as the Office of State Ethics under subsection (a) of this section
175 and the respondent shall have the right to be represented by legal
176 counsel, to compel attendance of witnesses and the production of books,
177 documents, records and papers and to examine and cross-examine
178 witnesses. Not later than ten days prior to the commencement of any
179 hearing conducted pursuant to this subsection, the Office of State Ethics
180 shall provide the respondent with a list of its intended witnesses. The
181 judge trial referee shall, while engaged in the discharge of the duties as
182 provided in this subsection, have the same authority as is provided in
183 section 51-35 over witnesses who refuse to obey a subpoena or to testify
184 with respect to any matter upon which such witness may be lawfully
185 interrogated, and may commit any such witness for contempt for a
186 period no longer than thirty days. The Office of State Ethics shall make
187 a record of all proceedings pursuant to this subsection. During the
188 course of any such hearing, no ex-parte communication shall occur
189 between the board, or any of its members, and: (1) The judge trial
190 referee, or (2) any staff member of the Enforcement Division of the Office
191 of State Ethics, concerning the complaint or the respondent. The board
192 shall find no person in violation of any provision of this part, section 1-
193 101bb or section 1-101nn except upon the concurring vote of two-thirds
194 of its members present and voting. No member of the board shall vote
195 on the question of whether a violation of any provision of this part has
196 occurred unless such member was physically present for the duration
197 of any hearing held pursuant to this subsection. Not later than [fifteen]
198 forty-five days after the public hearing conducted in accordance with
199 this subsection, the board shall publish its finding and a memorandum
200 of the reasons therefor. Such finding and memorandum shall be deemed
201 to be the final decision of the board on the matter for the purposes of
202 chapter 54. The respondent, if aggrieved by the finding and
203 memorandum, may appeal therefrom to the Superior Court in
204 accordance with the provisions of section 4-183.

205 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 1-83 of the general statutes is repealed
206 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

207 (a) (1) All state-wide elected officers, members of the General
208 Assembly, department heads and their deputies, members or directors
209 of each quasi-public agency, members of the Investment Advisory
210 Council and such members of the Executive Department and such
211 employees of quasi-public agencies as the Governor shall require, shall
212 file electronically with the Office of State Ethics using the software
213 created by the office, under penalty of false statement, a statement of
214 financial interests for the preceding calendar year [with the Office of
215 State Ethics] on or before the May first next in any year in which they
216 hold such an office or position. If, in any year, May first falls on a
217 weekend or legal holiday, such statement shall be filed not later than the
218 next business day. Any such individual who leaves his or her office or
219 position shall file electronically a statement of financial interests
220 covering that portion of the year during which such individual held his
221 or her office or position. The Office of State Ethics shall notify such
222 individuals of the requirements of this subsection not later than sixty
223 days after their departure from such office or position. Such individuals
224 shall file such statement electronically not later than sixty days after
225 receipt of the notification.

226 (2) Each state agency, department, board and commission shall
227 develop and implement, in cooperation with the Office of State Ethics,
228 an ethics statement as it relates to the mission of the agency, department,
229 board or commission. The executive head of each such agency,
230 department, board or commission shall be directly responsible for the
231 development and enforcement of such ethics statement and shall file a
232 copy of such ethics statement with the Department of Administrative
233 Services and the Office of State Ethics.

234 Sec. 8. Subsection (o) of section 1-84 of the general statutes is repealed
235 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

236 (o) If (1) any person (A) is doing business with or seeking to do

237 business with the department or agency in which a public official or
238 state employee is employed, or (B) is engaged in activities which are
239 directly regulated by such department or agency, and (2) such person or
240 a representative of such person gives to such public official or state
241 employee anything [of value which is subject to the reporting
242 requirements pursuant to subsection (e) of section 1-96] having a value
243 of more than ten dollars, such person or representative shall, not later
244 than ten days thereafter, give such recipient and the executive head of
245 the recipient's department or agency a written report stating the name
246 of the donor, a description of the item or items given, the value of such
247 items and the cumulative value of all items given to such recipient
248 during that calendar year. The provisions of this subsection shall not
249 apply to a political contribution otherwise reported as required by law.

250 Sec. 9. Subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of section 1-84b of the general
251 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
252 (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

253 (c) The provisions of this subsection apply to present or former
254 executive branch public officials or state employees who hold or
255 formerly held positions which involve significant decision-making or
256 supervisory responsibility. [and are] Such positions shall be designated
257 as such by the agency concerned, in consultation with the Office of State
258 Ethics, [in consultation with the agency concerned] except that such
259 provisions shall not apply to members or former members of the boards
260 or commissions who serve ex officio, who are required by statute to
261 represent the regulated industry or who are permitted by statute to have
262 a past or present affiliation with the regulated industry. [Designation]
263 On or before November 1, 2021, and not less than annually thereafter,
264 the head of each agency concerned, or his or her designee, shall submit
265 the designation of all positions in existence on such date that are subject
266 to the provisions of this subsection [shall be by regulations adopted by
267 the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board in accordance with chapter 54] to
268 the office electronically, in a manner prescribed by the Citizen's Ethics
269 Advisory Board. If an agency creates such a position after its annual
270 submission under this subsection, the head of such agency, or his or her

271 designee, shall submit the designation of the newly created position not
272 later than thirty days after the creation of such position. As used in this
273 subsection, "agency" means the Health Systems Planning Unit of the
274 Office of Health Strategy, the Connecticut Siting Council, the
275 Department of Banking, the Insurance Department, the Department of
276 Emergency Services and Public Protection, the office within the
277 Department of Consumer Protection that carries out the duties and
278 responsibilities of sections 30-2 to 30-68m, inclusive, the Public Utilities
279 Regulatory Authority, including the Office of Consumer Counsel, and
280 the Department of Consumer Protection and the term "employment"
281 means professional services or other services rendered as an employee
282 or as an independent contractor.

283 (1) No public official or state employee in an executive branch
284 position designated [by the Office of State Ethics] pursuant to the
285 provisions of this subsection shall negotiate for, seek or accept
286 employment with any business subject to regulation by his agency.

287 (2) No former public official or state employee who held such a
288 position in the executive branch shall, within one year after leaving an
289 agency, accept employment with a business subject to regulation by that
290 agency.

291 (3) No business shall employ a present or former public official or
292 state employee in violation of this subsection.

293 (d) The provisions of subsection (e) of this section apply to (1) present
294 or former Department of Consumer Protection public officials or state
295 employees who hold or formerly held positions which involve
296 significant decision-making or supervisory responsibility. [and are]
297 Such positions shall be designated as such by the agency concerned, in
298 consultation with the Office of State Ethics, [in consultation with the
299 agency concerned,] and (2) present or former public officials or state
300 employees of other agencies who hold or formerly held positions which
301 involve significant decision-making or supervisory responsibility
302 concerning the regulation or investigation of (A) any business entity (i)

303 engaged in Indian gaming operations in the state, and (ii) in which a
304 federally-recognized Indian tribe in the state owns a controlling interest,
305 or (B) a governmental agency of a federally-recognized Indian tribe
306 engaged in Indian gaming operations in the state, which positions are
307 designated as such by the agency concerned, in consultation with the
308 Office of State Ethics, [, in consultation with the agency concerned.
309 Designation] On or before November 1, 2021, and not less than annually
310 thereafter, the head of each agency concerned, or his or her designee,
311 shall submit designations of all positions in existence on such date that
312 are subject to the provisions of this subsection [shall be by regulations
313 adopted by the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board in accordance with
314 chapter 54. As used in subsection (e) of this section, the term
315 "employment" means professional services or other services rendered as
316 an employee or as an independent contractor.] to the office
317 electronically, in a manner prescribed by the Citizen's Ethics Advisory
318 Board. If an agency creates such a position after its annual submission
319 under this subsection, the head of such agency, or his or her designee,
320 shall submit the designation of the newly created position not later than
321 thirty days after the creation of such position. The Office of State Ethics
322 shall prepare a list of all positions designated under this subsection and
323 subsection (c) of this section, post the list on its Internet web site and
324 update such list as necessary.

325 (e) (1) No Department of Consumer Protection public official or state
326 employee or other public official or state employee described in
327 subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section [, in a position designated
328 by the Office of State Ethics,] shall negotiate for, seek or accept
329 employment with (A) a business entity (i) engaged in Indian gaming
330 operations in the state, and (ii) in which a federally-recognized Indian
331 tribe in the state owns a controlling interest, or (B) a governmental
332 agency of a federally-recognized Indian tribe engaged in Indian gaming
333 operations in the state.

334 (2) No former Department of Consumer Protection public official or
335 state employee or other former public official or state employee
336 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section, who held

337 such a position shall, within two years after leaving such agency, accept
338 employment with (A) a business entity (i) engaged in Indian gaming
339 operations in the state, and (ii) in which a federally-recognized Indian
340 tribe in the state owns a controlling interest, or (B) a governmental
341 agency of a federally-recognized Indian tribe engaged in Indian gaming
342 operations in the state.

343 (3) As used in this subsection, "employment" means professional
344 services or other services rendered as an employee or as an independent
345 contractor.

346 Sec. 10. Section 1-86e of the general statutes is repealed and the
347 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

348 (a) No person hired by the state as a consultant or independent
349 contractor, and no person employed by such consultant or independent
350 contractor, shall:

351 (1) Use the authority provided [to the person] under the contract, or
352 any confidential information acquired in the performance of the
353 contract, to obtain financial gain for the [person] consultant or
354 independent contractor, an employee of the [person] consultant or
355 independent contractor or a member of the immediate family of any
356 such [person] consultant, independent contractor or employee;

357 (2) Accept another state contract which would impair the
358 independent judgment of the [person] consultant, independent
359 contractor or employee in the performance of the existing contract; or

360 (3) Accept anything of value based on an understanding that the
361 actions of the [person] consultant, independent contractor or employee
362 on behalf of the state would be influenced.

363 (b) No person shall give anything of value to a person hired by the
364 state as a consultant or independent contractor or an employee of a
365 consultant or independent contractor based on an understanding that
366 the actions of the consultant, [or] independent contractor or employee

367 on behalf of the state would be influenced.

368 Sec. 11. Subsection (a) of section 1-90a of the general statutes is
369 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
370 *1, 2021*):

371 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 1-84, as amended by
372 this act, 1-84a, 1-85 and 1-86, a public official or state employee of a
373 public institution of higher education whose employment is derived
374 from such official's or employee's status as a student at such institution
375 shall not be subject to the provisions of said sections, if (1) such
376 institution has adopted written policies and procedures to regulate
377 student conduct concerning conflicts of interest relating to student
378 holding of public office or state employment, and (2) such policies and
379 procedures have been approved by the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board
380 in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

381 Sec. 12. Subdivision (7) of section 1-91 of the general statutes is
382 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
383 *1, 2021*):

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

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

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

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

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

397 (ii) the parent, grandparent, brother or sister of such spouse or such
398 individual, or (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such
399 child;

400 (E) Goods or services (i) that are provided to a state agency or quasi-
401 public agency (I) for use on state or quasi-public agency property, or (II)
402 that support an event or the participation by a public official or state
403 employee at an event, and (ii) that facilitate state or quasi-public agency
404 action or functions. As used in this subparagraph, "state property"
405 means property owned by the state or a quasi-public agency or property
406 leased to a state or quasi-public agency;

407 (F) A certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than
408 one hundred dollars;

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

411 (H) Printed or recorded informational material germane to state
412 action or functions;

413 (I) Food or beverage or both, costing less than fifty dollars in the
414 aggregate per recipient in a calendar year, and consumed on an occasion
415 or occasions at which the person paying, directly or indirectly, for the
416 food or beverage, or his representative, is in attendance;

417 (J) Food or beverage or both, costing less than fifty dollars per person
418 and consumed at a publicly noticed legislative reception to which all
419 members of the General Assembly are invited and which is hosted not
420 more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist or business
421 organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i) a reception hosted by a
422 lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also been hosted
423 by the business organization which he owns or is employed by, and (ii)
424 a reception hosted by a business organization shall be deemed to have
425 also been hosted by all owners and employees of the business
426 organization who are lobbyists. In making the calculation for the
427 purposes of such fifty-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount

428 spent on food and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor
429 reasonably expects to attend the reception;

430 (K) Food or beverage or both, costing less than fifty dollars per person
431 and consumed at a publicly noticed reception to which all members of
432 the General Assembly from a region of the state are invited and which
433 is hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist or
434 business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i) a reception
435 hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also
436 been hosted by the business organization which he owns or is employed
437 by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a business organization shall be
438 deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees of the
439 business organization who are lobbyists. In making the calculation for
440 the purposes of such fifty-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount
441 spent on food and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor
442 reasonably expects to attend the reception. As used in this
443 subparagraph, "region of the state" means the established geographic
444 service area of the organization hosting the reception;

445 (L) A gift, including, but not limited to, food or beverage or both,
446 provided by an individual for the celebration of a major life event,
447 provided any such gift provided by an individual who is not a member
448 of the family of the recipient does not exceed one thousand dollars in
449 value;

450 (M) Gifts costing less than one hundred dollars in the aggregate or
451 food or beverage provided at a hospitality suite at a meeting or
452 conference of an interstate legislative association, by a person who is not
453 a registrant or is not doing business with the state of Connecticut;

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

459 (O) Anything of value provided by an employer of (i) a public official,

460 (ii) a state employee, or (iii) a spouse of a public official or state
461 employee, to such official, employee or spouse, provided such benefits
462 are customarily and ordinarily provided to others in similar
463 circumstances;

464 (P) Anything having a value of not more than ten dollars, provided
465 the aggregate value of all things provided by a donor to a recipient
466 under this subdivision in any calendar year does not exceed fifty dollars;
467 or

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

471 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 1-93 of the general statutes is
472 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
473 *1, 2021*):

474 (b) If a judge trial referee indicates that probable cause exists for the
475 violation of a provision of this part or section 1-101bb, the board shall
476 initiate hearings to determine whether there has been a violation of this
477 part or section 1-101bb. Any such hearing shall be initiated by the board
478 not later than thirty days after the finding of probable cause by a judge
479 trial referee and shall be concluded not later than ninety days after its
480 initiation, except that such thirty-day or ninety-day limitation period
481 shall not apply if the judge trial referee determines that good cause
482 exists for extending such limitation period. A judge trial referee, who
483 has not taken part in the probable cause determination on the matter
484 shall be assigned by the Chief Court Administrator and shall be
485 compensated in accordance with section 52-434 out of funds available to
486 the board. Such judge trial referee shall preside over such hearing and
487 rule on all issues concerning the application of the rules of evidence,
488 which shall be the same as in judicial proceedings. The judge trial referee
489 shall have no vote in any decision of the board. All hearings of the board
490 held pursuant to this subsection shall be open. At such hearing the
491 board shall have the same powers as the Office of State Ethics under

492 subsection (a) of this section and the respondent shall have the right to
493 be represented by legal counsel, to compel attendance of witnesses and
494 the production of books, documents, records and papers and to examine
495 and cross-examine witnesses. Not later than ten days prior to the
496 commencement of any hearing conducted pursuant to this subsection,
497 the Office of State Ethics shall provide the respondent with a list of its
498 intended witnesses. The judge trial referee shall, while engaged in the
499 discharge of the duties as provided in this subsection, have the same
500 authority as is provided in section 51-35 over witnesses who refuse to
501 obey a subpoena or to testify with respect to any matter upon which
502 such witness may be lawfully interrogated, and may commit any such
503 witness for contempt for a period no longer than thirty days. The Office
504 of State Ethics shall make a record of all proceedings pursuant to this
505 subsection. During the course of any such hearing, no ex-parte
506 communication shall occur between the board, or any of its members,
507 and: (1) The judge trial referee, or (2) any staff member of the
508 Enforcement Division of the Office of State Ethics, concerning the
509 complaint or the respondent. The board shall find no person in violation
510 of any provision of this part or section 1-101bb except upon the
511 concurring vote of two-thirds of its members present and voting. No
512 member of the board shall vote on the question of whether a violation
513 of any provision of this part or section 1-101bb has occurred unless such
514 member was physically present for the duration of any hearing held
515 pursuant to this subsection. Not later than [fifteen] forty-five days after
516 the public hearing conducted in accordance with this subsection, the
517 board shall publish its finding and a memorandum of the reasons
518 therefor. Such finding and memorandum shall be deemed to be the final
519 decision of the board on the matter for the purposes of chapter 54. The
520 respondent, if aggrieved by the finding and memorandum, may appeal
521 therefrom to the Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of
522 section 4-183.

523 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 1-97 of the general statutes is
524 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
525 *1, 2021*):

526 (b) No person shall employ, or be employed as, a lobbyist for
 527 compensation [which] that is contingent upon the outcome of any
 528 administrative or legislative action.

529 Sec. 15. Sections 1-80b to 1-80d, inclusive, 1-82b and 1-89a of the
 530 general statutes are repealed. (*Effective October 1, 2021*)

| | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 1-79(5) |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2021</i> | 1-79(12) |
| Sec. 3 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 1-79 |
| Sec. 4 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 1-81(c) |
| Sec. 5 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 1-81(g) |
| Sec. 6 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 1-82(b) |
| Sec. 7 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 1-83(a) |
| Sec. 8 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 1-84(o) |
| Sec. 9 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 1-84b(c) to (e) |
| Sec. 10 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 1-86e |
| Sec. 11 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 1-90a(a) |
| Sec. 12 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 1-91(7) |
| Sec. 13 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 1-93(b) |
| Sec. 14 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | 1-97(b) |
| Sec. 15 | <i>October 1, 2021</i> | Repealer section |

Statement of Purpose:

To make revisions to the State Codes of Ethics concerning the scope of gift prohibitions, reporting of gifts, authority of the ethics enforcement officer, activities involving consultants and independent contractors, findings of ethics violations, permitting certain filings to be electronic and the repeal of certain provisions.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]