
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 646 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BREWSTER AND KEARNEY, MAY 13, 2019

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 13, 2019

AN ACT

1 Prohibiting certain gifts to members of the General Assembly.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Prohibition of certain gifts and favors.

5 Except as provided in section 2, no member of the General
6 Assembly may solicit or accept for the personal use of the
7 member or another individual a gift, gratuity, favor,
8 entertainment, hospitality, loan or other thing of monetary
9 value, including in-kind gifts, from a person who:

10 (1) Seeks to obtain business from or has financial
11 relations with the General Assembly or the Commonwealth.

12 (2) Conducts operations or activities that are regulated
13 by the General Assembly or the Commonwealth.

14 (3) Engages, either as principal or attorney, in
15 proceedings before the Commonwealth or in court proceedings
16 in which a member, the General Assembly or the Commonwealth
17 is an adverse party.

18 (4) Has interests that may be substantially affected by

1 the performance or nonperformance of the official duty of the
2 member.

3 Section 2. Applicability.

4 The provisions of section 1 shall not apply to:

5 (1) The solicitation or acceptance of something of
6 monetary value from a friend, parent, spouse, child or other
7 close relative of a member of the General Assembly under
8 circumstances which make it clear that the gift is motivated
9 by a family relationship or personal friendship rather than
10 the position or official duties of the member. Relevant
11 factors in making this determination include the history of
12 the relationship, including whether the friendship predates
13 the member's first term elected to the General Assembly and
14 whether the family member or friend pays for the gift.

15 (2) The acceptance of loans from banks or other
16 financial institutions on customary terms of finance for
17 proper and usual activities, including home-mortgage loans.

18 (3) Participation in widely attended gatherings free of
19 charge when members have been invited and are acting in
20 furtherance of the member's official duties. This paragraph
21 shall not apply to the acceptance of food or drink without a
22 member's payment at market value.

23 Section 3. Effective date.

24 This act shall take effect in 60 days.