

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2177 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY SACCONI, BENNINGHOFF, CREIGHTON, MULLERY, ROCK,
SIMMONS, SWANGER AND TRUITT, FEBRUARY 13, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 13, 2012

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in ethics standards and financial
3 disclosure, prohibiting certain transportation, lodging and
4 hospitality; and providing for exceptions.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 65 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding sections to read:

9 § 1103.1. Transportation, lodging and hospitality.

10 (a) General rule.--No person from whom a public official or
11 a public employee is prohibited under section 1103.1 (relating
12 to gifts) from receiving anything of economic value shall
13 provide the public servant with more than \$100 in
14 transportation, lodging or hospitality at any single or series
15 of events occurring within a 24-hour period. The amount of the
16 transportation, hospitality or lodging shall not exceed \$100,
17 regardless of the number of persons or entities providing the
18 food, drink or refreshments.

19 (b) Annual limit.--In no event shall such person provide

1 transportation, hospitality or lodging to a public official or
2 public employee valued at more than \$650 in the aggregate during
3 the calendar year.

4 (c) Calculation of limit.--Where a group of public officials
5 or public employees are invited to an event, the \$100 limit is
6 calculated by dividing the total cost of the food, drink and
7 refreshments by the number of persons invited to the event.

8 § 1103.2. Exceptions.

9 The prohibition stated in section 1103.1 (relating to
10 transportation, lodging and hospitality) shall not apply to the
11 following:

12 (1) Gifts or other things of value from a relative or
13 friend, unless the relative or friend is in a restricted
14 relationship as delineated in section 1103.1. The term
15 "friend" shall not include a registered lobbyist or
16 principal.

17 (2) A contribution, as defined in section 1621 of the
18 act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the
19 Pennsylvania Election Code, lawfully made under that act.

20 (3) Informational materials that are sent to the office
21 of the public official in the form of books, articles,
22 periodicals, other written materials, audiotapes, videotapes
23 or other forms of communication for nonentertainment
24 purposes.

25 (4) Awards or prizes that are given to competitors in
26 contests or events open to the public, including random
27 drawings.

28 (5) Honorary degrees and awards and associated travel,
29 food, refreshments and entertainment provided in the
30 presentation of the degrees and awards.

1 (6) Training provided to a public official or public
2 employee, if the training is in the interest of the
3 governmental entity. This paragraph shall include food and
4 refreshments furnished to all attendees as an integral part
5 of the training.

6 (7) An educational mission, including a meeting with
7 government officials, either foreign or domestic, intended to
8 educate public officials on matters of public policy, to
9 which the public official may be invited to participate along
10 with other Federal, State or local public officials and
11 community leaders.

12 (8) Anything paid for by the Federal, State or other
13 government or governmental entity under a government
14 contract.

15 (9) A plaque, trophy or other item that is substantially
16 commemorative in nature and has minimal value.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.