
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 484 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, SCHEMEL, HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS, VENKAT,
ZABEL, FLICK, GILLEN AND GLEIM, MARCH 16, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 16, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in ethics standards and financial
3 disclosure, further providing for definitions, providing for
4 gift ban and for gift ban exceptions and further providing
5 for statement of financial interests.

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

8 Section 1. The definition of "person" in section 1102 of
9 Title 65 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended
10 and the section is amended by adding definitions to read:

11 § 1102. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
13 shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
14 meanings given to them in this section:

15 * * *

16 "Cash." United States currency and coin and foreign currency
17 and coin.

18 * * *

19 "Lobbyist." Any individual, association, corporation,

1 partnership, business trust or other entity that engages in
2 lobbying on behalf of a principal for economic consideration and
3 that is registered under Ch. 13A (relating to lobbying
4 disclosure). The term includes an attorney at law while engaged
5 in lobbying.

6 * * *

7 "Person." A business, governmental body, individual,
8 including an individual lobbyist or employee of a lobbyist,
9 corporation, union, association, firm, partnership, committee,
10 club or other organization or group of persons.

11 * * *

12 Section 2. Title 65 is amended by adding sections to read:
13 § 1103.1. Gift ban.

14 Except as provided in section 1103.2 (relating to gift ban
15 exceptions), a public official, public employee or nominee or
16 candidate for public office may not receive, accept, take, seek
17 or solicit any of the following:

18 (1) Gifts, other than gifts of cash, having either an
19 aggregate fair market value or aggregate actual cost greater
20 than \$50 from any one person in a calendar year.

21 (2) Hospitality, transportation or lodging having either
22 an aggregate fair market value or aggregate actual cost
23 greater than \$500 from any one person in a calendar year.

24 (3) A gift of cash.

25 § 1103.2. Gift ban exceptions.

26 The prohibitions listed in section 1103.1 (relating to gift
27 ban) shall not apply to any of the following:

28 (1) A gift or any hospitality, transportation or lodging
29 from any of the following:

30 (i) A parent, sibling, spouse, child, stepchild,

1 stepparent, stepsibling, grandparent, grandchild, parent-
2 in-law, sibling-in-law or other family member or friend
3 when the circumstances make it clear that the motivation
4 for the gift or hospitality, transportation or lodging
5 was a personal or family relationship. The exception
6 under this subparagraph does not apply to a gift of cash
7 to a nominee or candidate for public office. For the
8 purposes of this subparagraph, the term "friend" does not
9 include a lobbyist or an employee of a lobbyist.

10 (ii) A lobbyist or employee of a lobbyist for the
11 celebration of a major life event, including, but not
12 limited to, a wedding, graduation or the birth of a
13 child.

14 (iii) A lobbyist or employee of a lobbyist if the
15 public official, public employee or nominee or candidate
16 for public office who receives the gift or hospitality,
17 transportation or lodging is involved in a personal
18 romantic relationship with the lobbyist or employee of a
19 lobbyist and the circumstances make it clear that the
20 motivation for the gift or hospitality, transportation or
21 lodging is related to the personal romantic relationship.
22 The exception under this subparagraph does not apply to a
23 gift of cash to a nominee or candidate for public office.

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

27 (3) Informational material sent to the office of a
28 public official or public employee in the form of a book,
29 article, periodical, other written material, audiotape,
30 videotape or other forms of communication for

1 nonentertainment purposes.

2 (4) An award or prize given to competitors in a contest
3 or event open to the public, including random drawings.

4 (5) An honorary degree or award and associated travel,
5 food, refreshments and entertainment provided in the
6 presentation of the degree or award.

7 (6) Training provided to a public official or public
8 employee if the training is in the interest of a governmental
9 entity. This paragraph shall include food and refreshments
10 furnished to all attendees as an integral part of the
11 training.

12 (7) Food and beverage for consumption at any of the
13 following:

14 (i) A public event, including a public meeting.

15 (ii) An event directly related to the duties and
16 responsibilities of a public official or public employee.

17 (iii) An event where a public official or public
18 employee is a speaker or a member of a panel.

19 (iv) A regularly scheduled event sponsored by a
20 constituent, Statewide organization or nonprofit
21 organization.

22 (8) Gifts exchanged between public officials or public
23 employees and their staffs on a voluntary basis.

24 (9) An educational mission, including a meeting with
25 governmental officials, either foreign or domestic, intended
26 to educate a public official or public employee on matters of
27 public policy, to which the public official or public
28 employee may be invited to participate along with other
29 Federal, State or local public officials or community
30 leaders.

1 (10) Anything paid for by a Federal, State or other
2 government or governmental entity under a government
3 contract.

4 (11) An honorarium, including an award, plaque, trophy
5 or other item, valued at \$100 or less that is substantially
6 commemorative in nature.

7 (12) Tokens having de minimis economic impact, such as a
8 greeting card, pen, cap or t-shirt.

9 (13) Light food or refreshments, such as hors d'oeuvres,
10 in a group setting and intended for mass consumption and not
11 intended for consumption by a specific individual.

12 (14) Complimentary attendance and food or beverage at a
13 bona fide charitable or political event.

14 (15) The following:

15 (i) Reimbursement of hospitality, transportation or
16 lodging expenses by:

17 (A) A governmental body.

18 (B) An organization or association of public
19 officials or employees of political subdivisions,
20 which a public official or public employee serves in
21 an official capacity.

22 (C) A private foundation as defined under 26
23 U.S.C. § 509 (relating to private foundation
24 defined).

25 (D) An organization exempt from taxes under 26
26 U.S.C. § 501(c) (4), (6), (19) or (23) (relating to
27 exemption from tax on corporations, certain trusts,
28 etc.).

29 (ii) Hospitality, transportation or lodging expenses
30 shall only be reimbursed if directly related to the

1 duties and responsibilities of a public official or
2 public employee.

3 Section 3. Section 1105(b)(6) and (7) of Title 65 are
4 amended and the subsection is amended by adding paragraphs to
5 read:

6 § 1105. Statement of financial interests.

7 * * *

8 (b) Required information.--The statement shall include the
9 following information for the prior calendar year with regard to
10 the person required to file the statement:

11 * * *

12 (6) The name and address of the source and the amount of
13 any gift or gifts valued in the aggregate at [\$250 or more]
14 \$50 or less and the circumstances of each gift. This
15 paragraph shall not apply to a gift [or gifts received from a
16 spouse, parent, parent by marriage, sibling, child,
17 grandchild, other family member or friend when the
18 circumstances make it clear that the motivation for the
19 action was a personal or family relationship. However, for
20 the purposes of this paragraph, the term "friend" shall not
21 include a registered lobbyist or an employee of a registered
22 lobbyist.] under section 1103.2(1) (relating to gift ban
23 exceptions).

24 (7) The name and address of the source and the amount of
25 any payment for or reimbursement of actual expenses for
26 transportation [and], lodging or hospitality [received in
27 connection with public office or employment where such actual
28 expenses for transportation and lodging or hospitality exceed
29 \$650 in an aggregate amount per year.] valued in the
30 aggregate at \$500 or less and the circumstances surrounding

1 the payment or reimbursement. This paragraph shall not apply
2 to [expenses reimbursed by a governmental body or to expenses
3 reimbursed by an organization or association of public
4 officials or employees of political subdivisions which the
5 public official or employee serves in an official capacity.]
6 transportation, lodging or hospitality under section
7 1103.2(1).

8 (7.1) The name and address of the source of any
9 honorarium valued at more than \$50 and the circumstances
10 surrounding the receipt of the honorarium.

11 (7.2) The name and address of the source and the amount
12 of any awards or prizes valued in the aggregate of more than
13 \$500 and the circumstances surrounding each award or prize.

14 * * *

15 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.