



WHAT ARE LEGISLATIVE RECEPTIONS?

- Registered lobbyists may hold a legislative reception for General Assembly members, per the gift exceptions.
- There are two types of legislative receptions. Lobbyists may choose to hold *one or the other* per calendar year – not both.
- The first type is a publicly-noticed legislative reception to which all members of the General Assembly are invited.
 - This is permitted once per calendar year.
 - Cost may not exceed \$49.99 per person in food and beverage.
- The second type is a regional reception to which all General Assembly members from a particular region in the state are invited.
 - This is permitted once per calendar year.
 - Cost may not exceed \$49.99 per person in food and beverage.
 - Note: This type is for a regional group hosting a regional reception. This type is *not* to be used for a state-wide organization to host two receptions in a year.

ITEMIZATION ON FINANCIAL FILINGS

- Legislative receptions must be itemized on lobbyist financial filings when:
 - The cost per person is \$30 or more.
- This holds true for both types of receptions described above.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- If you know that a legislative reception will be reportable per the itemization requirements above (i.e., \$30 or more per person), you must:
 - Include on the invitation or published notice that the event is expected to be reportable as such.

Please direct any questions to:
Office of State Ethics ♦ 18-20 Trinity Street ♦ Hartford, CT 06106
T: 860-566-4472 ♦ F: 860-566-3806 ♦ E: lobbyist.ose@ct.gov
www.ct.gov/ethics



VALUATION OF LOBBYIST EXPENDITURES

- In general, the value of an expenditure equals its cost to the lobbyist.
- When the cost of an expenditure is artificially low (e.g., a registered lobbyist receives a free ticket to an event), the value of the expenditure is equal to the fair market value of the benefit (e.g., the face value of the ticket).
- The value of food and beverage provided to a public official (or members of his/her staff or immediate family), is calculated by dividing the total expenditure by the number of individuals attending the meal or event. **EXCEPT:**
 - When the actual amount expended was based on an anticipated number of attendees, one or more of whom did not attend, you may divide the total expenditure by the number of individuals originally expected; and
 - In a restaurant setting, with stated menu prices and individual orders, you may determine the actual benefit received by each individual.

SPLITTING COSTS

- Lobbyists may split the cost of a meal worth **up to \$50 only**.
- Lobbyists may split the cost of a gift worth **up to \$10 only**.
- It is not permissible to circumvent the food and beverage or other gift exception limitations by splitting the cost of more expensive meals or items.

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