

Public Act 13-244

Gifts to the State

Gifts to the State – By law, restricted donors (e.g., registered lobbyists, etc.) cannot give “gifts” to public officials and state employees. There are numerous exceptions to this gift prohibition, among them, gifts to the state.

Existing law allows a state or quasi-public agency to accept goods or services (1) for use on agency property or that support an event and (2) that facilitate agency actions or functions.

[Public Act 13-244](#) amends the state Codes of Ethics' exemption for gifts to state or quasi-public agencies to include goods or services that support the participation by a public official or state employee at an event, and that facilitate state or quasi-public agency actions or functions.

Therefore, effective October 1, 2013, restricted donors may provide goods and services that support participation of officials and employees at an event (e.g., conference, site tour, training), so long as the event facilitates state action or functions.

Specific Intent Required

Effective upon passage, [Public Act 13-244](#) amends General Statutes § [1-84 \(q\)](#) establishing that a public official or state employee may be found in violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials for intentionally counseling, authorizing, or otherwise sanctioning actions that the code prohibits.

Governance of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board

Effective upon passage, [Public Act 13-244](#) staggers the Board members' terms of office in a way that prevents more than three terms from expiring in a single year and, commencing October 1, 2013, allows people who sought or held positions as justices of the peace and notaries public to serve on the Board.

Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board Authority

Effective October 1, 2013, [Public Act 13-244](#) authorizes the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board to issue advisory opinions on miscellaneous lobbyist provisions (Part III of the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists) and ethical considerations concerning bidding and state contracts (Part IV of the Code of Ethics concerning Bidding and State Contracts).

2013 Legislative Updates to the Codes of Ethics

State Contractors and Consultants

Effective October 1, 2013, [Public Act 13-244](#) expands the grounds for contractor disqualification by the State Contracting Standards Board and makes contractors, consultants, and certain other people liable for damages if they violate the law on unethical bidding or contracting practices to advance their own financial interests. Under the new law, damages equal the amount of the financial advantage.

Statements of Financial Interests

Effective October 1, 2013, [Public Act 13-244](#) allows public officials and employees who must file a Statement of Financial Interests to do so on the first business day after May 1 if May 1 falls on a weekend or legal holiday.

The act requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority directors to file a Statement of Financial Interests annually with the Office of State Ethics, by May 1, instead of filing a financial disclosure statement with the Secretary of the State.

Public Act 13-299

Gaming Policy Board

Effective July 1, 2013, [Public Act 13-299](#), eliminates the Gaming Policy Board and transfers its functions and responsibilities to the Department of Consumer Protection. By virtue of this change, members of the Gaming Policy Board have been removed as statutory filers of Statement of Financial Interests and are no longer subject to the revolving-door provisions.

Public Act 13-180

Political Party Activities

Effective upon passage, [Public Act 13-180](#) exempts from the gift ban expenses of a public official, paid by the party committee of which party such official is a member, for the purpose of accomplishing the lawful purposes of the committee. The terms "party committee" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (2) of section [9-601](#) of the General Statutes, and "lawful purposes of the committee" has the same meaning as provided in subsection (g) of section [9-607](#) of the General Statutes.

(For interpretation of Political Party Activities please contact the State Elections Enforcement Commission.)

Contact Us



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Business Hours: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Visitors must enter the building through the door next to the Bushnell Memorial Theater.

Specific E-mail Contacts: For the timeliest responses, please be sure to direct your questions to the appropriate e-mail address; for example, with a question such as, "Can I accept this outside position with a vendor?" please be sure to send your query to ethics.code@ct.gov

➤ Legal Advice Regarding Code of Ethics	ethics.code@ct.gov
➤ Lobbyist Filing/Reporting Questions	lobbyist.ose@ct.gov
➤ Public Official Filing/Reporting Questions	sfi.ose@ct.gov
➤ Enforcement / Filing a Complaint	ethics.enforcement@ct.gov
➤ All Other Inquires	ose@ct.gov

Staff Phone Number Listing