

**Changes to the Code of Ethics
State Employees and Public Officials**

Public Act 15-43

Effective: January 1, 2016

**An Act Concerning the Disclosure of Leases or Contracts with
Quasi-Public Agencies and the Names of Securities in
Statements of Financial Interest**

Statements of Financial Interests

The Statements of Financial Interests (“SFI”) must include any leases or contracts with a quasi-public agency.

Commencing January 1, 2016, public officials and state employees who are required to file the annual SFI disclosures must include any leases or contracts with quasi-public agencies. The required disclosure applies not only to leases and contracts of the SFI filer, but also to those of his or her spouse and any dependent child residing in the filer’s household. General Statutes [§ 1-83 \(b\) \(1\) \(G\)](#).

Disclosure of securities held in certain retirement and savings accounts not required.

Commencing January 1, 2016, securities in excess of \$5,000 at fair market value held within the following accounts or plans do not have to be disclosed on the filer’s SFI and only the name of such retirement and/or savings plan must be reported. General Statutes [§ 1-83 \(b\) \(3\)](#).

- Retirement Savings Plans under Section 401 of the IRS Code;
- Individual Retirement Accounts under Section 408 of the IRS Code;
- Individual Retirement Accounts (Roth) under Section 408A of the IRS Code;
- Governmental Deferred Compensation Plans under Section 457 of the IRS Code; and
- Education savings plans under Section 529 of the IRS Code.

Example: You have a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan offered by the State of Connecticut and managed by Prudential Co., with investments allocated among a number of mutual funds held within the account, each exceeding \$5,000 in value. In addition, your spouse has a 401 (k) plan from his or her employer, managed by Fidelity Co., with investments allocated among a number of funds held within the account, with one fund exceeding \$5,000 in value. Finally, you and your spouse have

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a 529 Connecticut Higher Education Trust (“CHET”) savings plan for your child. The 529 CHET account is managed by TIAA-CREF, with investments allocated among a number of funds held within various investment options, each exceeding \$5,000 in value.

Based on the foregoing, it will be sufficient to identify the accounts as follows:

457 Deferred Compensation Plan Account – Prudential
401 (k) Account – Fidelity
529 CHET Account – TIAA CREF

Changes to the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists

Public Act 15-15

Effective: January 1, 2016

An Act Amending the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists to Redefine “Expenditure” and Raise the Threshold for Lobbyist Registration

Lobbyist Registration Threshold

The lobbyist registration threshold increases from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

A person who in lobbying and in furtherance of lobbying makes or agrees to make expenditures, or receives or agrees to receive compensation, reimbursement, or both, in the amount of \$3,000 or more in any calendar year must register as a lobbyist. General Statutes [§§ 1-91](#) and [1-94](#).

Definition of Expenditure

Exceptions to the term “expenditure” clarified and expanded.

The new law clarifies and expands exceptions to the term “expenditure,” as defined in the Code of Ethics for Lobbyists. General Statutes [§ 1-91 \(6\)](#).

Communications with bona-fide members, employees or shareholders

Exempted from the definition of “expenditure” will be expenses made by any club, committee, partnership, organization, business, union, association or corporation for the purpose of publishing a newsletter or other release intended primarily for its members, shareholders or employees, whether in written or electronic form or made orally during a regularly noticed meeting. Such exempted expenses do not have to be counted toward the lobbyist registration threshold and/or reported on lobbyist financial disclosures.

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Transportation of bona-fide members, employees or shareholders

Also excluded from the definition of “expenditure” are costs to an entity for transportation of its members, shareholders and employees to and from a specific site (e.g., busing of union members or company employees to a rally at the State Capitol). This exception, however, does not exempt transportation costs for individuals who are paid specifically to lobby.

Quasi-Public Agency Exemptions

Officials and employees of Connecticut quasi-public agencies exempted from the term “lobbyist.”

Officials and employees of Connecticut quasi-public agencies who act within the scope of their official authority or employment are exempted from the definition of “lobbyist.” General Statutes [§ 1-91 \(12\) \(A\)](#).

Communicator lobbyists no longer required to file financial reports on behalf of state and quasi-public agencies, given that such agencies may not retain lobbyists.

Because quasi-public agencies and state agencies are prohibited by General Statutes [§ 1-101bb](#) from retaining lobbyists, the change in the lobbyist reporting law makes clear that reporting by communicator lobbyists on behalf of such agencies is no longer necessary. General Statutes [§ 1-96 \(a\)](#).

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