



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 434

LCO No. 3028



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

***AN ACT INCREASING VARIOUS MONETARY THRESHOLDS UNDER
THE STATE CODES OF ETHICS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (5) of section 1-79 of the 2024 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

4 (5) "Gift" means anything of value, which is directly and personally
5 received, unless consideration of equal or greater value is given in
6 return. "Gift" does not include:

7 (A) A political contribution otherwise reported as required by law or
8 a donation or payment as described in subdivision (9) or (10) of
9 subsection (b) of section 9-601a;

10 (B) Services provided by persons volunteering their time, if provided
11 to aid or promote the success or defeat of any political party, any
12 candidate or candidates for public office or the position of convention
13 delegate or town committee member or any referendum question;

14 (C) A commercially reasonable loan made on terms not more
15 favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business;

16 (D) A gift received from (i) an individual's spouse, fiancé or fiancée,
17 (ii) the parent, grandparent, brother or sister of such spouse or such
18 individual, or (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such
19 child;

20 (E) Goods or services (i) that are provided to a state agency or quasi-
21 public agency (I) for use on state or quasi-public agency property, or (II)
22 that support an event or the participation by a public official or state
23 employee at an event, and (ii) that facilitate state or quasi-public agency
24 action or functions. As used in this subparagraph, "state property"
25 means property owned by the state or a quasi-public agency or property
26 leased to a state agency or quasi-public agency;

27 (F) A certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than
28 ~~one~~ two hundred dollars;

29 (G) A rebate, discount or promotional item available to the general
30 public;

31 (H) Printed or recorded informational material germane to state
32 action or functions;

33 (I) Food or beverage or both, costing less than ~~[fifty]~~ one hundred
34 dollars in the aggregate per recipient in a calendar year, and consumed
35 on an occasion or occasions at which the person paying, directly or
36 indirectly, for the food or beverage, or ~~[his]~~ such person's representative,
37 is in attendance;

38 (J) Food or beverage or both, costing less than ~~[fifty]~~ one hundred
39 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed legislative
40 reception to which all members of the General Assembly are invited and
41 which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist
42 or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i) a reception
43 hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also

44 been hosted by the business organization which such lobbyist owns or
45 is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a business organization
46 shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees
47 of the business organization who are lobbyists. In making the
48 calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-hundred-dollar
49 limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food and beverage by
50 the number of persons whom the donor reasonably expects to attend the
51 reception;

52 (K) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred
53 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed reception to
54 which all members of the General Assembly from a region of the state
55 are invited and which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year
56 by a lobbyist or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i)
57 a reception hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed
58 to have also been hosted by the business organization which such
59 lobbyist owns or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a
60 business organization shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all
61 owners and employees of the business organization who are lobbyists.
62 In making the calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-
63 hundred-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food
64 and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor reasonably
65 expects to attend the reception. As used in this subparagraph, "region of
66 the state" means the established geographic service area of the
67 organization hosting the reception;

68 (L) A gift, including, but not limited to, food or beverage or both,
69 provided by an individual for the celebration of a major life event,
70 provided any such gift provided by an individual who is not a member
71 of the family of the recipient does not exceed one thousand five hundred
72 dollars in value;

73 (M) Gifts costing less than [one] two hundred dollars in the aggregate
74 or food or beverage provided at a hospitality suite at a meeting or
75 conference of an interstate legislative association, by a person who is not
76 a registrant or is not doing business with the state of Connecticut;

77 (N) Admission to a charitable or civic event, including food and
78 beverage provided at such event, but excluding lodging or travel
79 expenses, at which a public official or state employee participates in his
80 or her official capacity, provided such admission is provided by the
81 primary sponsoring entity;

82 (O) Anything of value provided by an employer of (i) a public official,
83 (ii) a state employee, or (iii) a spouse of a public official or state
84 employee, to such official, employee or spouse, provided such benefits
85 are customarily and ordinarily provided to others in similar
86 circumstances;

87 (P) Anything having a value of not more than [ten] twenty dollars,
88 provided the aggregate value of all things provided by a donor to a
89 recipient under this subdivision in any calendar year does not exceed
90 [fifty] one hundred dollars;

91 (Q) Training that is provided by a vendor for a product purchased by
92 a state or quasi-public agency that is offered to all customers of such
93 vendor;

94 (R) Travel expenses, lodging, food, beverage and other benefits
95 customarily provided by a prospective employer, when provided to a
96 student at a public institution of higher education whose employment
97 is derived from such student's status as a student at such institution, in
98 connection with bona fide employment discussions; or

99 (S) Expenses of a public official, paid by the party committee of which
100 party such official is a member, for the purpose of accomplishing the
101 lawful purposes of the committee. As used in this subparagraph, "party
102 committee" has the same meaning as provided in subdivision (2) of
103 section 9-601 and "lawful purposes of the committee" has the same
104 meaning as provided in subsection (g) of section 9-607.

105 Sec. 2. Subsection (i) of section 1-84 of the 2024 supplement to the
106 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
107 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

108 (i) (1) No public official or state employee or member of the official
109 or employee's immediate family or a business with which he is
110 associated shall enter into any contract with the state, valued at [one]
111 two hundred dollars or more, other than a contract (A) of employment
112 as a state employee, (B) with the Technical Education and Career System
113 for students enrolled in a school in the system to perform services in
114 conjunction with vocational, technical, technological or postsecondary
115 education and training any such student is receiving at a school in the
116 system, subject to the review process under subdivision (2) of this
117 subsection, (C) with a public institution of higher education to support
118 a collaboration with such institution to develop and commercialize any
119 invention or discovery, or (D) pursuant to a court appointment, unless
120 the contract has been awarded through an open and public process,
121 including prior public offer and subsequent public disclosure of all
122 proposals considered and the contract awarded. In no event shall an
123 executive head of an agency, as defined in section 4-166, including a
124 commissioner of a department, or an executive head of a quasi-public
125 agency, or the executive head's immediate family or a business with
126 which he is associated enter into any contract with that agency or quasi-
127 public agency. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as applying
128 to any public official who is appointed as a member of the executive
129 branch or as a member or director of a quasi-public agency and who
130 receives no compensation other than per diem payments or
131 reimbursement for actual or necessary expenses, or both, incurred in the
132 performance of the public official's duties unless such public official has
133 authority or control over the subject matter of the contract. Any contract
134 made in violation of this subsection shall be voidable by a court of
135 competent jurisdiction if the suit is commenced not later than one
136 hundred eighty days after the making of the contract.

137 (2) The superintendent of the Technical Education and Career System
138 shall establish an open and transparent process to review any contract
139 entered into under subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this
140 subsection.

141 Sec. 3. Subsection (o) of section 1-84 of the 2024 supplement to the

142 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
143 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

144 (o) If (1) any person (A) is doing business with or seeking to do
145 business with the department or agency in which a public official or
146 state employee is employed, or (B) is engaged in activities which are
147 directly regulated by such department or agency, and (2) such person or
148 a representative of such person gives to such public official or state
149 employee anything having a value of more than [ten] twenty dollars,
150 such person or representative shall, not later than ten days thereafter,
151 give such recipient and the executive head of the recipient's department
152 or agency a written report stating the name of the donor, a description
153 of the item or items given, the value of such items and the cumulative
154 value of all items given to such recipient during that calendar year. The
155 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a political contribution
156 otherwise reported as required by law.

157 Sec. 4. Subdivision (6) of section 1-91 of the 2024 supplement to the
158 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
159 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

160 (6) "Expenditure" means any advance, conveyance, deposit,
161 distribution, transfer of funds, loan, payment, unless expressly
162 excluded; any payments for telephone, mailing, postage, printing and
163 other clerical or office services and materials; any paid communications,
164 costing [fifty] one hundred dollars or more in any calendar year,
165 disseminated by means of any printing, broadcasting or other medium,
166 provided such communications refer to pending administrative or
167 legislative action; any contract, agreement, promise or other obligation;
168 any solicitation or solicitations, costing [fifty] one hundred dollars or
169 more in the aggregate for any calendar year, of other persons to
170 communicate with a public official or state employee for the purpose of
171 influencing any legislative or administrative act and any pledge,
172 subscription of money or anything of value. "Expenditure" does not
173 include (A) the payment of a registrant's fee pursuant to section 1-95, (B)
174 any expenditure made by any club, committee, partnership,

175 organization, business, union, association or corporation for the
176 purpose of publishing a newsletter or other release intended primarily
177 for its members, shareholders or employees, whether in written or
178 electronic form or made orally during a regularly noticed meeting, (C)
179 any expenditure made by any club, committee, partnership,
180 organization, business, union, association or corporation for the
181 purpose of transporting its members, shareholders or employees to or
182 from a specific site, where such members, shareholders or employees
183 received no other compensation or reimbursement for lobbying from
184 such club, committee, partnership, organization, business, union,
185 association or corporation, or (D) contributions, membership dues or
186 other fees paid to associations, nonstock corporations or tax-exempt
187 organizations under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,
188 or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United
189 States, as from time to time amended.

190 Sec. 5. Subdivision (7) of section 1-91 of the 2024 supplement to the
191 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
192 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

193 (7) "Gift" means anything of value, which is directly and personally
194 received, unless consideration of equal or greater value is given in
195 return. "Gift" does not include:

196 (A) A political contribution otherwise reported as required by law or
197 a donation or payment described in subdivision (9) or (10) of subsection
198 (b) of section 9-601a;

199 (B) Services provided by persons volunteering their time, if provided
200 to aid or promote the success or defeat of any political party, any
201 candidate or candidates for public office or the position of convention
202 delegate or town committee member or any referendum question;

203 (C) A commercially reasonable loan made on terms not more
204 favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business;

205 (D) A gift received from (i) the individual's spouse, fiancé or fiancée,

206 (ii) the parent, grandparent, brother or sister of such spouse or such
207 individual, or (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such
208 child;

209 (E) Goods or services (i) that are provided to a state agency or quasi-
210 public agency (I) for use on state or quasi-public agency property, or (II)
211 that support an event or the participation by a public official or state
212 employee at an event, and (ii) that facilitate state or quasi-public agency
213 action or functions. As used in this subparagraph, "state property"
214 means property owned by the state or a quasi-public agency or property
215 leased to a state or quasi-public agency;

216 (F) A certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than
217 one ~~two~~ hundred dollars;

218 (G) A rebate, discount or promotional item available to the general
219 public;

220 (H) Printed or recorded informational material germane to state
221 action or functions;

222 (I) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred
223 dollars in the aggregate per recipient in a calendar year, and consumed
224 on an occasion or occasions at which the person paying, directly or
225 indirectly, for the food or beverage, or [his] such person's representative,
226 is in attendance;

227 (J) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred
228 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed legislative
229 reception to which all members of the General Assembly are invited and
230 which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist
231 or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i) a reception
232 hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also
233 been hosted by the business organization which [he] such lobbyist owns
234 or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a business organization
235 shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees
236 of the business organization who are lobbyists. In making the

237 calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-hundred-dollar
238 limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food and beverage by
239 the number of persons whom the donor reasonably expects to attend the
240 reception;

241 (K) Food or beverage or both, costing less than [fifty] one hundred
242 dollars per person and consumed at a publicly noticed reception to
243 which all members of the General Assembly from a region of the state
244 are invited and which is hosted not more than once in any calendar year
245 by a lobbyist or business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (i)
246 a reception hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed
247 to have also been hosted by the business organization which [he] such
248 lobbyist owns or is employed by, and (ii) a reception hosted by a
249 business organization shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all
250 owners and employees of the business organization who are lobbyists.
251 In making the calculation for the purposes of such [fifty-dollar] one-
252 hundred-dollar limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food
253 and beverage by the number of persons whom the donor reasonably
254 expects to attend the reception. As used in this subparagraph, "region of
255 the state" means the established geographic service area of the
256 organization hosting the reception;

257 (L) A gift, including, but not limited to, food or beverage or both,
258 provided by an individual for the celebration of a major life event,
259 provided any such gift provided by an individual who is not a member
260 of the family of the recipient does not exceed one thousand five hundred
261 dollars in value;

262 (M) Gifts costing less than [one] two hundred dollars in the aggregate
263 or food or beverage provided at a hospitality suite at a meeting or
264 conference of an interstate legislative association, by a person who is not
265 a registrant or is not doing business with the state of Connecticut;

266 (N) Admission to a charitable or civic event, including food and
267 beverage provided at such event, but excluding lodging or travel
268 expenses, at which a public official or state employee participates in his

269 or her official capacity, provided such admission is provided by the
270 primary sponsoring entity;

271 (O) Anything of value provided by an employer of (i) a public official,
272 (ii) a state employee, or (iii) a spouse of a public official or state
273 employee, to such official, employee or spouse, provided such benefits
274 are customarily and ordinarily provided to others in similar
275 circumstances;

276 (P) Anything having a value of not more than [~~ten~~] twenty dollars,
277 provided the aggregate value of all things provided by a donor to a
278 recipient under this subdivision in any calendar year does not exceed
279 [~~fifty~~] one hundred dollars; or

280 (Q) Training that is provided by a vendor for a product purchased by
281 a state or quasi-public agency that is offered to all customers of such
282 vendor.

283 Sec. 6. Subdivision (12) of section 1-91 of the 2024 supplement to the
284 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
285 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

286 (12) "Lobbyist" means a person who in lobbying and in furtherance
287 of lobbying makes or agrees to make expenditures, or receives or agrees
288 to receive compensation, reimbursement, or both, and such
289 compensation, reimbursement or expenditures are three thousand
290 dollars or more in any calendar year or the combined amount thereof is
291 three thousand dollars or more in any such calendar year. "Lobbyist"
292 does not include:

293 (A) A public official, employee of a branch of state government or a
294 subdivision thereof, including an official or employee of a quasi-public
295 agency, or elected or appointed official of a municipality or his or her
296 designee other than an independent contractor, who is acting within the
297 scope of his or her authority or employment;

298 (B) A publisher, owner or an employee of the press, radio or

299 television while disseminating news or editorial comment to the general
300 public in the ordinary course of business;

301 (C) An individual representing himself or herself or another person
302 before the legislature or a state agency other than for the purpose of
303 influencing legislative or administrative action;

304 (D) Any individual or employee who receives no compensation or
305 reimbursement specifically for lobbying and who limits his activities
306 solely to formal appearances to give testimony before public sessions of
307 committees of the General Assembly or public hearings of state agencies
308 and who, if he or she testifies, registers his or her appearance in the
309 records of such committees or agencies;

310 (E) A member of an advisory board acting within the scope of his or
311 her appointment;

312 (F) A senator or representative in Congress acting within the scope of
313 his or her office;

314 (G) Any person who receives no compensation or reimbursement
315 specifically for lobbying and who spends no more than five hours in
316 furtherance of lobbying unless such person (i) exclusive of salary,
317 receives compensation or makes expenditures, or both, of three
318 thousand dollars or more in any calendar year for lobbying or the
319 combined amount thereof is three thousand dollars or more in any such
320 calendar year, or (ii) expends [fifty] one hundred dollars or more for the
321 benefit of a public official in the legislative or executive branch, a
322 member of his or her staff or immediate family;

323 (H) A communicator lobbyist who receives or agrees to receive
324 compensation, reimbursement, or both, the aggregate amount of which
325 is less than three thousand dollars from each client in any calendar year.

326 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is repealed
327 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

328 (a) Each client lobbyist registrant shall file with the Office of State

329 Ethics between the first and tenth day of April, July and January a
330 financial report, signed under penalty of false statement. The April and
331 July reports shall cover its lobbying activities during the previous
332 calendar quarter and the January report shall cover its lobbying
333 activities during the previous two calendar quarters. In addition to such
334 reports, each client lobbyist registrant which attempts to influence
335 legislative action shall file, under penalty of false statement, interim
336 monthly reports of its lobbying activities for each month the General
337 Assembly is in regular session, except that no monthly report shall be
338 required for any month in which it neither expends nor agrees to expend
339 [one] two hundred dollars or more in furtherance of lobbying. Such
340 interim monthly reports shall be filed with the Office of State Ethics no
341 later than the tenth day of the month following the last day of the month
342 reported. If the client lobbyist registrant is not an individual, an
343 authorized officer or agent of the client lobbyist registrant shall sign the
344 form. A communicator lobbyist for a municipality or any subdivision of
345 a municipality shall file the reports described in this subsection utilizing
346 the client lobbyist reporting schedule.

347 Sec. 8. Subsection (e) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is repealed
348 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

349 (e) Each client lobbyist registrant financial report shall be on a form
350 prescribed by the board and shall state expenditures made and the
351 fundamental terms of contracts, agreements or promises to pay
352 compensation or reimbursement or to make expenditures in furtherance
353 of lobbying. Any such fundamental terms shall be reported once in the
354 monthly, quarterly or post-termination report next following the
355 entering into of such contract. Such financial report shall include an
356 itemized statement of each expenditure of [ten] twenty dollars or more
357 per person for each occasion made by the reporting registrant or a group
358 of registrants which includes the reporting registrant for the benefit of a
359 public official in the legislative or executive branch, a member of his
360 staff or immediate family, itemized by date, beneficiary, amount and
361 circumstances of the transaction. The requirement of an itemized
362 statement shall not apply to an expenditure made by a reporting

363 registrant or a group of registrants which includes the reporting
364 registrant for (1) the benefit of the members of the General Assembly at
365 an event that is a reception to which all such members are invited or all
366 members of a region of the state, as such term is used in subparagraph
367 (K) of subdivision (7) of section 1-91, as amended by this act, are invited,
368 unless the expenditure is [thirty] sixty dollars or more per person, or (2)
369 benefits personally and directly received by a public official or state
370 employee at a charitable or civic event at which the public official or
371 state employee participates in his official capacity, unless the
372 expenditure is [thirty] sixty dollars or more per person, per event. If the
373 compensation is required to be reported for an individual whose
374 lobbying is incidental to his or her regular employment, it shall be
375 sufficient to report a prorated amount based on the value of the time
376 devoted to lobbying. On the first financial report following registration
377 each client lobbyist registrant shall include any expenditures incident to
378 lobbying activities that were received or expended prior to registration
379 and not previously reported to the Office of State Ethics.

380 Sec. 9. Subsection (g) of section 1-96 of the general statutes is repealed
381 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

382 (g) Each former registrant shall (1) report receipts or expenditures
383 incident to lobbying activities during [his] such registrant's period of
384 registration which are received or expended following termination of
385 registration and (2) report each expenditure of [ten] twenty dollars or
386 more per person for each occasion made by [him] such registrant for the
387 benefit of a public official or a member of such official's immediate
388 family or staff which occurs within six months after termination of
389 registration.

390 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 1-96a of the general statutes is
391 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
392 *1, 2024*):

393 (a) Each registrant shall obtain and preserve all accounts, bills,
394 receipts and other documents necessary to substantiate the financial

395 reports required by section 1-96, as amended by this act, for a period of
 396 three years from the date of the filing of the report referring to such
 397 financial matters, provided this section shall apply to each expenditure
 398 for the benefit of a public official of [ten] twenty dollars or more and all
 399 other expenditures of [fifty] one hundred dollars or more.

400 Sec. 11. Section 1-96e of the general statutes is repealed and the
 401 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

402 Each registrant who pays or reimburses a public official or state
 403 employee [ten] twenty dollars or more for necessary expenses, as
 404 defined in section 1-79, as amended by this act, shall, within forty-five
 405 days, file a statement with the Office of State Ethics indicating the name
 406 of such individual and the amount of the expenses.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	1-79(5)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	1-84(i)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	1-84(o)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	1-91(6)
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	1-91(7)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	1-91(12)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	1-96(a)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	1-96(e)
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	1-96(g)
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	1-96a(a)
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	1-96e

Statement of Purpose:

To increase various monetary thresholds for violations under the state codes of ethics.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]