Z-0246.2

SENATE BILL 5386

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senators Pedersen, Miloscia, Rivers, Cleveland, and Litzow; by request of Legislative Ethics Board

Read first time 01/21/15. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & State Security.

AN ACT Relating to the reporting of gifts in the form of food and beverage to state officers and state employees; and amending RCW 42.52.150, 42.17A.615, and 42.17A.710.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 Sec. 1. RCW 42.52.150 and 2011 c 60 s 29 are each amended to 6 read as follows:

7 (1) No state officer or state employee may accept gifts, other than those specified in subsections (2) and (5) of this section, with 8 an aggregate value in excess of fifty dollars from a single source in 9 a calendar year or a single gift from multiple sources with a value 10 11 in excess of fifty dollars. For purposes of this section, "single source" means any person, as defined in RCW 42.52.010, whether acting 12 13 directly or through any agent or other intermediary, and "single 14 gift" includes any event, item, or group of items used in conjunction with each other or any trip including transportation, lodging, and 15 16 attendant costs, not excluded from the definition of gift under RCW 17 42.52.010. The value of gifts given to an officer's or employee's family member or quest shall be attributed to the official or 18 employee for the purpose of determining whether the limit has been 19 20 exceeded, unless an independent business, family, or social 21 relationship exists between the donor and the family member or guest.

1 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the 2 following items are presumed not to influence under RCW 42.52.140, 3 and may be accepted without regard to the limit established by 4 subsection (1) of this section:

5 (a) Unsolicited flowers, plants, and floral arrangements;

6 (b) Unsolicited advertising or promotional items of nominal 7 value, such as pens and note pads;

8 (c) Unsolicited tokens or awards of appreciation in the form of a 9 plaque, trophy, desk item, wall memento, or similar item;

10 (d) Unsolicited items received by a state officer or state 11 employee for the purpose of evaluation or review, if the officer or 12 employee has no personal beneficial interest in the eventual use or 13 acquisition of the item by the officer's or employee's agency;

14 (e) Informational material, publications, or subscriptions15 related to the recipient's performance of official duties;

16 (f) Food and beverages consumed at hosted receptions where 17 attendance is related to the state officer's or state employee's 18 official duties;

(g) Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real or personal property, or both, in trust or otherwise accepted and solicited for deposit in the legislative international trade account created in RCW 43.15.050;

(h) Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real or personal property, or both, in trust or otherwise accepted and solicited for the purpose of promoting the expansion of tourism as provided for in RCW 43.330.090;

(i) Gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real or 27 personal property, or both, solicited on behalf of a national 28 legislative association, 2006 official conference of the national 29 lieutenant governors' association, or host committee for the purpose 30 31 of hosting an official conference under the circumstances specified 32 in RCW 42.52.820 and section 2, chapter 5, Laws of 2006. Anything solicited or accepted may only be received by the national 33 association or host committee and may not be commingled with any 34 35 funds or accounts that are the property of any person;

36 (j) Admission to, and the cost of food and beverages consumed at, 37 events sponsored by or in conjunction with a civic, charitable, 38 governmental, or community organization; and

39 (k) Unsolicited gifts from dignitaries from another state or a40 foreign country that are intended to be personal in nature.

1 (3) The presumption in subsection (2) of this section is 2 rebuttable and may be overcome based on the circumstances surrounding 3 the giving and acceptance of the item.

4 (4) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (5) of this section, a 5 state officer or state employee of a regulatory agency or of an 6 agency that seeks to acquire goods or services who participates in 7 those regulatory or contractual matters may receive, accept, take, or 8 seek, directly or indirectly, only the following items from a person 9 regulated by the agency or from a person who seeks to provide goods 10 or services to the agency:

11 (a) Unsolicited advertising or promotional items of nominal 12 value, such as pens and note pads;

(b) Unsolicited tokens or awards of appreciation in the form of aplaque, trophy, desk item, wall memento, or similar item;

15 (c) Unsolicited items received by a state officer or state 16 employee for the purpose of evaluation or review, if the officer or 17 employee has no personal beneficial interest in the eventual use or 18 acquisition of the item by the officer's or employee's agency;

19 (d) Informational material, publications, or subscriptions20 related to the recipient's performance of official duties;

(e) Food and beverages consumed at hosted receptions where attendance is related to the state officer's or state employee's official duties;

(f) Admission to, and the cost of food and beverages consumed at, events sponsored by or in conjunction with a civic, charitable, governmental, or community organization; and

27 (g) Those items excluded from the definition of gift in RCW 28 42.52.010 except:

(i) Payments by a governmental or nongovernmental entity of reasonable expenses incurred in connection with a speech, presentation, appearance, or trade mission made in an official capacity;

(ii) Payments for seminars and educational programs sponsored by
 a bona fide governmental or nonprofit professional, educational,
 trade, or charitable association or institution; and

36 (iii) Flowers, plants, and floral arrangements.

37 (5) A state officer or state employee may accept gifts in the 38 form of food and beverage on infrequent occasions in the ordinary 39 course of meals where attendance by the officer or employee is 40 related to the performance of official duties. <u>These gifts</u> in the

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form of food and beverage ((that exceed fifty dollars on a single
 occasion)) shall be reported as provided in chapter 42.17A RCW.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.17A.615 and 2010 c 204 s 804 are each amended to 4 read as follows:

5 (1) Any lobbyist registered under RCW 42.17A.600 and any person 6 who lobbies shall file with the commission monthly reports of his or 7 her lobbying activities. The reports shall be made in the form and 8 manner prescribed by the commission and must be signed by the 9 lobbyist. The monthly report shall be filed within fifteen days after 10 the last day of the calendar month covered by the report.

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(2) The monthly report shall contain:

(a) The totals of all expenditures for lobbying activities made 12 or incurred by the lobbyist or on behalf of the lobbyist by the 13 lobbyist's employer during the period covered by the report. 14 15 Expenditure totals for lobbying activities shall be segregated according to financial category, including compensation; food and 16 17 refreshments; living accommodations; advertising; travel; 18 contributions; and other expenses or services. Each individual expenditure of more than twenty-five dollars for entertainment shall 19 20 be identified by date, place, amount, and the names of all persons taking part in the entertainment, along with the dollar amount 21 attributable to each person, including the lobbyist's portion. 22

(b) In the case of a lobbyist employed by more than one employer, the proportionate amount of expenditures in each category incurred on behalf of each of the lobbyist's employers.

(c) An itemized listing of each contribution of money or of 26 27 tangible or intangible personal property, whether contributed by the lobbyist personally or delivered or transmitted by the lobbyist, to 28 any candidate, elected official, or officer or employee of any 29 30 agency, or any political committee supporting or opposing any ballot 31 proposition, or for or on behalf of any candidate, elected official, or officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee 32 supporting or opposing any ballot proposition. All contributions made 33 34 to, or for the benefit of, any candidate, elected official, or 35 officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee supporting or opposing any ballot proposition shall be identified by 36 date, amount, and the name of the candidate, elected official, or 37 38 officer or employee of any agency, or any political committee supporting or opposing any ballot proposition receiving, or to be
 benefited by each such contribution.

3 (d) The subject matter of proposed legislation or other 4 legislative activity or rule making under chapter 34.05 RCW, the 5 state administrative procedure act, and the state agency considering 6 the same, which the lobbyist has been engaged in supporting or 7 opposing during the reporting period, unless exempt under RCW 8 42.17A.610(2).

9 (e) A listing of each payment for an item specified in RCW 10 42.52.150(5) in excess of fifty dollars, and with respect to 11 <u>legislators regardless of dollar value</u>, and each item specified in 12 RCW 42.52.010(((10))) <u>(9)</u> (d) and (f) made to a state elected 13 official, state officer, or state employee. Each item shall be 14 identified by recipient, date, and approximate value of the item.

(f) The total expenditures paid or incurred during the reporting 15 16 period by the lobbyist for lobbying purposes, whether through or on 17 behalf of a lobbyist or otherwise, for (i) political advertising as defined in RCW 42.17A.005; and (ii) public relations, telemarketing, 18 polling, or similar activities if the activities, directly or 19 indirectly, are intended, designed, or calculated to influence 20 21 legislation or the adoption or rejection of a rule, standard, or rate by an agency under the administrative procedure act. The report shall 22 specify the amount, the person to whom the amount was paid, and a 23 brief description of the activity. 24

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(3) Lobbyists are not required to report the following:

26 (a) Unreimbursed personal living and travel expenses not incurred27 directly for lobbying;

28 (b) Any expenses incurred for his or her own living 29 accommodations;

30 (c) Any expenses incurred for his or her own travel to and from 31 hearings of the legislature;

(d) Any expenses incurred for telephone, and any office expenses,
 including rent and salaries and wages paid for staff and secretarial
 assistance.

35 (4) The commission may adopt rules to vary the content of 36 lobbyist reports to address specific circumstances, consistent with 37 this section. Lobbyist reports are subject to audit by the 38 commission.

1 Sec. 3. RCW 42.17A.710 and 2010 c 204 s 903 are each amended to 2 read as follows:

3 (1) The statement of financial affairs required by RCW 42.17A.700
4 shall disclose the following information for the reporting individual
5 and each member of his or her immediate family:

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(a) Occupation, name of employer, and business address;

7 (b) Each bank account, savings account, and insurance policy in which a direct financial interest was held that exceeds twenty 8 thousand dollars at any time during the reporting period; each other 9 item of intangible personal property in which a direct financial 10 11 interest was held that exceeds two thousand dollars during the reporting period; the name, address, and nature of the entity; and 12 the nature and highest value of each direct financial interest during 13 14 the reporting period;

15 (c) The name and address of each creditor to whom the value of 16 two thousand dollars or more was owed; the original amount of each 17 debt to each creditor; the amount of each debt owed to each creditor 18 as of the date of filing; the terms of repayment of each debt; and 19 the security given, if any, for each such debt. Debts arising from a 20 "retail installment transaction" as defined in chapter 63.14 RCW 21 (retail installment sales act) need not be reported;

(d) Every public or private office, directorship, and positionheld as trustee;

(e) All persons for whom any legislation, rule, rate, or standard 24 has been prepared, promoted, or opposed for current or deferred 25 26 compensation. For the purposes of this subsection, "compensation" 27 does not include payments made to the person reporting by the governmental entity for which the person serves as an elected 28 29 official or state executive officer or professional staff member for his or her service in office; the description of such actual or 30 31 proposed legislation, rules, rates, or standards; and the amount of current or deferred compensation paid or promised to be paid; 32

(f) The name and address of each governmental entity, corporation, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, association, union, or other business or commercial entity from whom compensation has been received in any form of a total value of two thousand dollars or more; the value of the compensation; and the consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation;

(g) The name of any corporation, partnership, joint venture,association, union, or other entity in which is held any office,

1 directorship, or any general partnership interest, or an ownership interest of ten percent or more; the name or title of that office, 2 directorship, or partnership; the nature of ownership interest; and: 3 (i) With respect to a governmental unit in which the official seeks 4 or holds any office or position, if the entity has received 5 б compensation in any form during the preceding twelve months from the 7 unit, the value of the compensation governmental and the consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation; 8 (ii) the name of each governmental unit, corporation, 9 and partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, association, union, 10 11 or other business or commercial entity from which the entity has 12 received compensation in any form in the amount of ten thousand more during the preceding twelve months and the 13 dollars or consideration given or performed in exchange for the compensation. As 14 used in (g)(ii) of this subsection, "compensation" does not include 15 16 payment for water and other utility services at rates approved by the 17 Washington state utilities and transportation commission or the legislative authority of the public entity providing the service. 18 19 With respect to any bank or commercial lending institution in which is held any office, directorship, partnership interest, or ownership 20 21 interest, it shall only be necessary to report either the name, address, and occupation of every director and officer of the bank or 22 commercial lending institution and the average monthly balance of 23 each account held during the preceding twelve months by the bank or 24 25 commercial lending institution from the governmental entity for which 26 the individual is an official or candidate or professional staff member, or all interest paid by a borrower on loans from and all 27 28 interest paid to a depositor by the bank or commercial lending 29 institution if the interest exceeds two thousand four hundred dollars; 30

(h) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand dollars in which any direct financial interest was acquired during the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and nature of the financial interest and of the consideration given in exchange for that interest;

(i) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as
 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of
 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand

1 dollars in which any direct financial interest was divested during 2 the preceding calendar year, and a statement of the amount and nature 3 of the consideration received in exchange for that interest, and the 4 name and address of the person furnishing the consideration;

5 (j) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as 6 prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of 7 Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds ten thousand 8 dollars in which a direct financial interest was held. If a 9 description of the property has been included in a report previously 10 filed, the property may be listed, for purposes of this subsection 11 (1)(j), by reference to the previously filed report;

(k) A list, including legal or other sufficient descriptions as prescribed by the commission, of all real property in the state of Washington, the assessed valuation of which exceeds twenty thousand dollars, in which a corporation, partnership, firm, enterprise, or other entity had a direct financial interest, in which corporation, partnership, firm, or enterprise a ten percent or greater ownership interest was held;

(1) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount, at which food and beverage in excess of fifty dollars, and with respect to legislators regardless of dollar value when received from lobbyists or lobbyist employers, was accepted under RCW 42.52.150(5);

(m) A list of each occasion, specifying date, donor, and amount, at which items specified in RCW 42.52.010(((10))) (9) (d) and (f) were accepted; and

(n) Such other information as the commission may deem necessary
in order to properly carry out the purposes and policies of this
chapter, as the commission shall prescribe by rule.

29 (2) Where an amount is required to be reported under subsection (1)(a) through (m) of this section, it shall be sufficient to comply 30 31 with the requirement to report whether the amount is less than four thousand dollars, at least four thousand dollars but less than twenty 32 thousand dollars, at least twenty thousand dollars but less than 33 forty thousand dollars, at least forty thousand dollars but less than 34 35 one hundred thousand dollars, or one hundred thousand dollars or 36 more. An amount of stock may be reported by number of shares instead by market value. No provision of this subsection may 37 of be interpreted to prevent any person from filing more information or 38 39 more detailed information than required.

1 (3) Items of value given to an official's or employee's spouse, 2 domestic partner, or family member are attributable to the official 3 or employee, except the item is not attributable if an independent 4 business, family, or social relationship exists between the donor and 5 the spouse, domestic partner, or family member.

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