



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 434

February Session, 2024



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2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu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 fifty 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 fifty dollars in the
74 aggregate or food or beverage provided at a hospitality suite at a
75 meeting or conference of an interstate legislative association, by a
76 person who is not a registrant or is not doing business with the state of
77 Connecticut;

78 (N) Admission to a charitable or civic event, including food and
79 beverage provided at such event, but excluding lodging or travel

80 expenses, at which a public official or state employee participates in his
81 or her official capacity, provided such admission is provided by the
82 primary sponsoring entity;

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

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

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

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

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

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107 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu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

109 (i) (1) No public official or state employee or member of the official

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

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

142 Sec. 3. Subsection (o) of section 1-84 of the 2024 supplement to the
143 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu

144 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024*):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

206 (D) A gift received from (i) the individual's spouse, fiancé or fiancée,
207 (ii) the parent, grandparent, brother or sister of such spouse or such

208 individual, or (iii) the child of such individual or the spouse of such
209 child;

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

217 (F) A certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than
218 [one] two hundred fifty dollars;

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

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

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

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

239 limit, the donor shall divide the amount spent on food and beverage by
240 the number of persons whom the donor reasonably expects to attend the
241 reception;

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

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

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

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

271 or her official capacity, provided such admission is provided by the
272 primary sponsoring entity;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

392 Sec. 10. Subsection (a) of section 1-96a of the general statutes is
393 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
394 *1, 2024*):

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

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

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

404 Each registrant who pays or reimburses a public official or state
405 employee [ten] twenty dollars or more for necessary expenses, as
406 defined in section 1-79, as amended by this act, shall, within forty-five
407 days, file a statement with the Office of State Ethics indicating the name
408 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

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*