
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 885 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, EICHELBERGER, BLAKE, SCHWANK, RAFFERTY,
BREWSTER, AUMENT, VULAKOVICH AND FARNESE, AUGUST 24, 2015

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, AUGUST 24, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in ethics standards and financial
3 disclosure, prohibiting certain transportation, lodging,
4 hospitality and gifts.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 65 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

9 § 1103.1. Transportation, lodging, hospitality and gifts.

10 (a) General rule.--No public official or employee may
11 solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any transportation,
12 lodging or hospitality or anything of economic value as a gift
13 from a person who:

14 (1) has or is seeking a contractual, business or
15 financial relationship with the public official's or
16 employee's governing body, including the acquisition of a
17 grant or loan;

18 (2) is compensated to influence the passage or defeat of
19 legislation by the public official's or employee's

1 governmental body;

2 (3) conducts operations or activities that are regulated
3 by the public official's or employee's governmental body; or

4 (4) has an economic interest that may be substantially
5 affected by the performance or nonperformance of the public
6 official's or employee's official job duties.

7 (b) Exceptions.--The prohibition stated in subsection (a)
8 shall not apply to the following:

9 (1) a gift, devise, bequest, intestate estate
10 distribution or principal distribution of a trust, from a
11 relative or friend, unless the relative or friend is in a
12 restricted relationship as delineated in subsection (a). The
13 term "friend" shall not include a registered lobbyist or
14 principal;

15 (2) a "contribution," as defined in section 1621 of the
16 act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the
17 Pennsylvania Election Code, lawfully made under that act;

18 (3) informational material that is sent to the office of
19 the public official in the form of a book, article,
20 periodical, other written material, audiotape, videotape or
21 other forms of communication for nonentertainment purposes;

22 (4) an award or prize that is given to competitors in a
23 contest or event open to the public, including random
24 drawings;

25 (5) an honorary degree and award and associated travel,
26 food, refreshments and entertainment provided in the
27 presentation of the degree and award;

28 (6) training provided to a public official or public
29 employee, if the training is in the interest of the
30 governmental entity. This paragraph shall include food and

1 refreshments furnished to all attendees as an integral part
2 of the training;

3 (7) an educational mission, including a meeting with
4 government officials, either foreign or domestic, intended to
5 educate a public official on matters of public policy, to
6 which the public official may be invited to participate along
7 with other Federal, State or local public officials and
8 community leaders;

9 (8) anything paid for by the Federal, State or other
10 government or governmental entity under a government
11 contract;

12 (9) a plaque, trophy or other item that is substantially
13 commemorative in nature and has minimal value. Also a gift of
14 nominal value, for example, a greeting card, pen, cap or t-
15 shirt; or

16 (10) light food or refreshments, such as hors d'oeuvres,
17 in a group setting and intended for mass consumption and not
18 intended for the consumption by a specific individual. Also
19 complimentary attendance and food or beverage at a bona fide
20 charitable or political event.

21 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.