



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2005

LCO No. 8071

\*HB0666908071SD0\*

Offered by:  
SEN. DEFRONZO, 6<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6669      File No. 841      Cal. No. 624

(As Amended by House Amendment Schedule "A")

**"AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING, ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT, A VOTING TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS BOARD, NOMINATION PROCEDURES, TRAINING FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS, CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING, RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS AND VOTER REGISTRATION."**

1      After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2      internal references accordingly:

3      "Sec. 501. Subsection (e) of section 1-79 of the general statutes is  
4      repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
5      *1, 2005*):

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

- 9 (1) A political contribution otherwise reported as required by law or  
10 a donation or payment as described in subdivision (9) or (10) of  
11 subsection (b) of section 9-333b;
- 12 (2) Services provided by persons volunteering their time;
- 13 (3) A commercially reasonable loan made on terms not more  
14 favorable than loans made in the ordinary course of business;
- 15 (4) A gift received from (A) an individual's spouse, fiance or fiancée,  
16 (B) the parent, brother or sister of such spouse or such individual, or  
17 (C) the child of such individual or the spouse of such child;
- 18 (5) Goods or services (A) which are provided to the state (i) for use  
19 on state property, or (ii) to support an event or the participation by a  
20 public official or state employee at an event, and (B) which facilitate  
21 state action or functions. As used in this subdivision, "state property"  
22 means (i) property owned by the state, or (ii) property leased to an  
23 agency in the Executive or Judicial Department of the state;
- 24 (6) A certificate, plaque or other ceremonial award costing less than  
25 one hundred dollars;
- 26 (7) A rebate, discount or promotional item available to the general  
27 public;
- 28 (8) Printed or recorded informational material germane to state  
29 action or functions;
- 30 (9) Food or beverage or both, costing less than fifty dollars in the  
31 aggregate per recipient in a calendar year, and consumed on an  
32 occasion or occasions at which the person paying, directly or  
33 indirectly, for the food or beverage, or his representative, is in  
34 attendance;
- 35 (10) Food or beverage or both, costing less than fifty dollars per  
36 person and consumed at a publicly noticed legislative reception to  
37 which all members of the General Assembly are invited and which is

38 hosted not more than once in any calendar year by a lobbyist or  
39 business organization. For the purposes of such limit, (A) a reception  
40 hosted by a lobbyist who is an individual shall be deemed to have also  
41 been hosted by the business organization which he owns or is  
42 employed by, and (B) a reception hosted by a business organization  
43 shall be deemed to have also been hosted by all owners and employees  
44 of the business organization who are lobbyists. In making the  
45 calculation for the purposes of such fifty-dollar limit, the donor shall  
46 divide the amount spent on food and beverage by the number of  
47 persons whom the donor reasonably expects to attend the reception;

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

64 (12) A gift, including but not limited to, food or beverage or both,  
65 provided by an individual for the celebration of a major life event;

66 (13) Gifts costing less than one hundred dollars in the aggregate or  
67 food or beverage provided at a hospitality suite at a meeting or  
68 conference of an interstate legislative association, by a person who is  
69 not a registrant or is not doing business with the state of Connecticut;

70 (14) Admission to a charitable or civic event, including food and  
71 beverage provided at such event, but excluding lodging or travel  
72 expenses, at which a public official or state employee participates in  
73 his official capacity, provided such admission is provided by the  
74 primary sponsoring entity;

75 (15) Anything of value provided by an employer of (A) a public  
76 official, (B) a state employee, or (C) a spouse of a public official or state  
77 employee, to such official, employee or spouse, provided such benefits  
78 are customarily and ordinarily provided to others in similar  
79 circumstances; [or]

80 (16) Anything having a value of not more than ten dollars, provided  
81 the aggregate value of all things provided by a donor to a recipient  
82 under this subdivision in any calendar year shall not exceed fifty  
83 dollars; or

84 (17) Necessary expenses, as defined in subsection (q) of this section.

85 Sec. 502. Subsection (q) of section 1-79 of the general statutes is  
86 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
87 *1, 2005*):

88 (q) "Necessary expenses" means a public official's or state  
89 employee's expenses for an article, appearance or speech or for  
90 participation at an event, in his official capacity, which shall be limited  
91 to necessary travel expenses, lodging for the nights before, of and after  
92 the appearance, speech or event, meals and any related [conference or  
93 seminar] registration fees.

94 Sec. 503. Subsection (k) of section 1-84 of the general statutes is  
95 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
96 *1, 2005*):

97 (k) No public official or state employee shall accept a fee or  
98 honorarium for an article, appearance or speech, or for participation at  
99 an event, in the public official's or state employee's official capacity,

100 provided a public official or state employee may receive payment or  
101 reimbursement for necessary expenses for any such activity in his  
102 official capacity. If a public official or state employee receives such a  
103 payment or reimbursement for lodging or out-of-state travel or both,  
104 the official or employee shall, within thirty days, file a report of the  
105 payment or reimbursement with the commission, unless the payment  
106 or reimbursement is provided by the federal government or another  
107 state government. If a public official or state employee does not file  
108 such report within such period, either intentionally or due to gross  
109 negligence on the public official's or state employee's part, the public  
110 official or state employee shall return the payment or reimbursement.  
111 If any failure to file such report is not intentional or due to gross  
112 negligence on the part of the public official or state employee, the  
113 public official or state employee shall not be subject to any penalty  
114 under this chapter. When a public official or state employee [attends]  
115 participates in an event in this state in the public official's or state  
116 employee's official capacity [and as a principal speaker at such event]  
117 and receives admission to or food or beverage at such event from the  
118 sponsor of the event, such admission or food or beverage shall not be  
119 considered a gift and no report shall be required from such official or  
120 employee or from the sponsor of the event."