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**OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS' STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF  
RAISED BILL No. 6296  
AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROVISIONS FOR  
PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND STATE EMPLOYEES**

The Office of State Ethics ("OSE") supports passage of Raised Bill No. 6296, and respectfully requests that the following comments be considered.

This bill expands the conflict of interest provisions to non-state employers who employ state public officials and state employees. The extension of the conflict of interest provisions to non-state outside employers will address those situations where public officials and/or state employees take official action for the benefit of their non-state employers. For example, acting favorably toward an outside employer's interests with the expectation of promotions or other benefits.

The OSE supports section 1 of Raised Bill No. 6296, which includes the term "other employer" in the "the use of office" provision of § 1-84 (c) of the general statutes. Under current law no public official or state employee can use his or her state position to obtain financial gain for himself, his spouse, child, child's spouse, parent, brother, or sister, or a business with which he is associated. The proposed extension of the restriction against "using one's office" would apply to one's non-state employer.

The OSE also supports, under section 2 of Raised Bill No. 6296, the inclusion of the term "other employer" in § 1-84 (f) of the general statutes, which prohibits the offering or giving of anything of value with the understanding that the vote, official action or judgment of the public official, candidate for public office or state employee would be or had been influenced.

In addition, the OSE supports section 3 of Raised Bill No. 6296, which expands the conflict of interest provision under § 1-85 of the general statutes. Presently, public officials can vote on matters related to their other, non-state employers. This change under § 1-85 of the general statutes would extend the prohibition regarding substantial conflicts of interest to official action taken by a public official or state employee with regard to his or her other employer.

Finally, the OSE supports, under section 4 of Raised Bill No. 6296, the inclusion of the term "other employer" in § 1-86 of the general statutes, which deals with potential conflicts of interest of public officials or state employees. The current law states that a public official or state employee, other than an elected state official, who in the discharge of his or her duties, would be required to take an action that would affect a financial interest of the individual, his or her spouse, parent, brother, sister, child, or spouse of a child, has a potential conflict of interests. Without the use of the term "other employer," public official or state employee's actions could potentially benefit their outside employers.

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