

House of Representatives, March 26, 1998. The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. BYSIEWICZ, 100th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND STATE EMPLOYEES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Subsection (k) of section 1-84 of the general
2 statutes, as amended by section 3 of public act
3 97-6 of the June 18 special session, is repealed
4 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

5 (k) (1) No public official or state employee
6 shall accept a fee or honorarium for an article,
7 appearance or speech, or for participation at an
8 event, in his official capacity, provided a public
9 official or state employee may receive payment or
10 reimbursement for necessary expenses for any such
11 activity in his official capacity. HOWEVER, NO
12 PERSON OR INDIVIDUAL REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS A
13 LOBBYIST OR DOING BUSINESS IN, SEEKING TO DO
14 BUSINESS IN OR ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO
15 REGULATION BY THE STATE SHALL FURNISH, AND NO
16 PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR STATE EMPLOYEE SHALL ACCEPT,
17 NECESSARY EXPENSES FOR PARTICIPATION IN OR
18 ATTENDANCE AT AN EVENT SPONSORED BY A CONNECTICUT
19 ORGANIZATION BUT HELD OUTSIDE THE STATE.

20 (2) If a public official or state employee
21 receives such a payment or reimbursement for

22 lodging or out-of-state travel or both, the
23 official or employee shall, within thirty days,
24 file a report of the payment or reimbursement with
25 the commission, unless the payment or
26 reimbursement is provided by the federal
27 government or another state government. If a
28 public official or state employee does not file
29 such report within such period, either
30 intentionally or due to gross negligence on his
31 part, he shall return the payment or
32 reimbursement. If any failure to file such report
33 is not intentional or due to gross negligence on
34 the part of the public official or state employee,
35 he shall not be subject to any penalty under this
36 chapter.

37 (3) When a public official or state employee
38 who attends an event in this state in his official
39 capacity and as a principal speaker at such event
40 and receives admission to or food or beverage at
41 such event from the sponsor of the event, such
42 admission or food or beverage shall not be
43 considered a gift and no report shall be required
44 from such official or employee or from the sponsor
45 of the event.

46 GAE COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 17 NAY 0 JF

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER HB 5569

STATE IMPACT	Minimal Workload Increase, Can Be Absorbed, see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	None
STATE AGENCY(S)	Ethics Commission

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

Passage of this bill bans reimbursements for necessary expenses that public officials and state employees can receive for participating in or attending an event if it is sponsored by a Connecticut organization but held out of state. It is anticipated that this will result in a minimal workload increase to the Ethics Commission, which can be handled within anticipated budgetary resources.

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OLR BILL ANALYSIS

HB 5569

AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND STATE EMPLOYEES

SUMMARY: This bill bans reimbursements for necessary expenses that public officials and state employees can receive for participating in or attending an out-of-state event sponsored by a Connecticut organization. It prohibits (1) a registered lobbyist, (2) anyone doing or seeking to do business in the state, or (3) anyone engaged in activities subject to

state regulation from making such a reimbursement. It prohibits as well an official or employee from accepting one. The law prohibits public officials and employees from accepting fees or honoraria for articles, appearances, speeches, or participation in events in their official capacity, but they may accept reimbursements for necessary expenses.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

BACKGROUND

Definitions

The bill's provisions apply to public officials and state employees as defined in the Code of Ethics for Public Officials. A public official is any statewide elected officer, member or member-elect of the General Assembly, gubernatorial appointee, anyone appointed or elected by the General Assembly or a single legislator, any sheriff or deputy sheriff, or any member or director of a quasi-public agency. The definition excludes members of an advisory board, judges, U.S. senators, and representatives in Congress.

"State employee" means any employee in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government, whether in the classified or unclassified service, and any employee of a quasi-public agency, but not a judge.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 17 Nay 0