

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 248**

By Senators Caputo and Woelfel

[Introduced January 11, 2024; referred  
to the Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §6B-2-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
 2 prohibiting members of the Legislature and part-time public officials from having an interest  
 3 in public contracts under certain circumstances; requiring certain disclosures; and  
 4 requiring the Ethics Commission to conduct oversight and make a public statement in  
 5 certain circumstances.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 2. WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION; POWERS AND DUTIES;  
 DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND  
 EMPLOYEES; APPEARANCES BEFORE PUBLIC AGENCIES; CODE OF  
 CONDUCT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES.**

**§6B-2-5. Ethical standards for elected and appointed officials and public employees.**

1 (a) Persons subject to section. — The provisions of this section apply to all public officials  
 2 and public employees, whether full- or part-time and whether compensated or not, in state, county,  
 3 municipal governments and their respective boards, agencies, departments, and commissions  
 4 and in any other regional or local governmental agency, including county school boards.

5 (b) Use of public office for private gain. — (1) A public official or public employee may not  
 6 knowingly and intentionally use his or her office or the prestige of his or her office for his or her own  
 7 private gain or that of another person. Incidental use of equipment or resources available to a  
 8 public official or public employee by virtue of his or her position for personal or business purposes  
 9 resulting in de minimis private gain does not constitute use of public office for private gain under  
 10 this subsection. The performance of usual and customary duties associated with the office or  
 11 position or the advancement of public policy goals or constituent services, without compensation,  
 12 does not constitute the use of prestige of office for private gain.

13 (2) Notwithstanding the general prohibition against use of office for private gain, public  
 14 officials and public employees may use bonus points acquired through participation in frequent

15 traveler programs while traveling on official government business: *Provided*, That the official's or  
16 employee's participation in such program, or acquisition of such points, does not result in  
17 additional costs to the government.

18 (3) The Legislature, in enacting this subsection, recognizes that there may be certain  
19 public officials or public employees who bring to their respective offices or employment their own  
20 unique personal prestige which is based upon their intelligence, education, experience, skills and  
21 abilities, or other personal gifts or traits. In many cases, these persons bring a personal prestige to  
22 their office or employment which inures to the benefit of the state and its citizens. Those persons  
23 may, in fact, be sought by the state to serve in their office or employment because, through their  
24 unusual gifts or traits, they bring stature and recognition to their office or employment and to the  
25 state itself. While the office or employment held or to be held by those persons may have its own  
26 inherent prestige, it would be unfair to those individuals and against the best interests of the  
27 citizens of this state to deny those persons the right to hold public office or to be publicly employed  
28 on the grounds that they would, in addition to the emoluments of their office or employment, be in a  
29 position to benefit financially from the personal prestige which otherwise inheres to them.  
30 Accordingly, the commission is directed, by legislative rule, to establish categories of public  
31 officials and public employees, identifying them generally by the office or employment held, and  
32 offering persons who fit within those categories the opportunity to apply for an exemption from the  
33 application of the provisions of this subsection. Exemptions may be granted by the commission, on  
34 a case-by-case basis, when it is shown that: (A) The public office held or the public employment  
35 engaged in is not such that it would ordinarily be available or offered to a substantial number of the  
36 citizens of this state; (B) the office held or the employment engaged in is such that it normally or  
37 specifically requires a person who possesses personal prestige; and (C) the person's employment  
38 contract or letter of appointment provides or anticipates that the person will gain financially from  
39 activities which are not a part of his or her office or employment.

40 (4) A public official or public employee may not show favoritism or grant patronage in the

41 employment or working conditions of his or her relative or a person with whom he or she resides:  
42 *Provided*, That as used in this subdivision, "employment or working conditions" shall only apply to  
43 government employment: *Provided, however*, That government employment includes only those  
44 governmental entities specified in subsection (a) of this section.

45 (c) Gifts. — (1) A public official or public employee may not solicit any gift unless the  
46 solicitation is for a charitable purpose with no resulting direct pecuniary benefit conferred upon the  
47 official or employee or his or her immediate family: *Provided*, That no public official or public  
48 employee may solicit for a charitable purpose any gift from any person who is also an official or  
49 employee of the state and whose position is subordinate to the soliciting official or employee:  
50 *Provided, however*, That nothing herein shall prohibit a candidate for public office from soliciting a  
51 lawful political contribution. No official or employee may knowingly accept any gift, directly or  
52 indirectly, from a lobbyist or from any person whom the official or employee knows or has reason to  
53 know:

54 (A) Is doing or seeking to do business of any kind with his or her agency;

55 (B) Is engaged in activities which are regulated or controlled by his or her agency; or

56 (C) Has financial interests which may be substantially and materially affected, in a manner  
57 distinguishable from the public generally, by the performance or nonperformance of his or her  
58 official duties.

59 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, a person who is a  
60 public official or public employee may accept a gift described in this subdivision, and there shall be  
61 a presumption that the receipt of such gift does not impair the impartiality and independent  
62 judgment of the person. This presumption may be rebutted only by direct objective evidence that  
63 the gift did impair the impartiality and independent judgment of the person or that the person knew  
64 or had reason to know that the gift was offered with the intent to impair his or her impartiality and  
65 independent judgment. The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection do not apply to:

66 (A) Meals and beverages;

- 67 (B) Ceremonial gifts or awards which have insignificant monetary value;
- 68 (C) Unsolicited gifts of nominal value or trivial items of informational value;
- 69 (D) Reasonable expenses for food, travel, and lodging of the official or employee for a  
70 meeting at which the official or employee participates in a panel or has a speaking engagement;
- 71 (E) Gifts of tickets or free admission extended to a public official or public employee to  
72 attend charitable, cultural, or political events, if the purpose of such gift or admission is a courtesy  
73 or ceremony customarily extended to the office;
- 74 (F) Gifts that are purely private and personal in nature; or
- 75 (G) Gifts from relatives by blood or marriage, or a member of the same household.
- 76 (3) The commission shall, through legislative rule promulgated pursuant to chapter 29A of  
77 this code, establish guidelines for the acceptance of a reasonable honorarium by public officials  
78 and elected officials. The rule promulgated shall be consistent with this section. Any elected public  
79 official may accept an honorarium only when:
- 80 (A) That official is a part-time elected public official;
- 81 (B) The fee is not related to the official's public position or duties;
- 82 (C) The fee is for services provided by the public official that are related to the public  
83 official's regular, nonpublic trade, profession, occupation, hobby, or avocation; and
- 84 (D) The honorarium is not provided in exchange for any promise or action on the part of the  
85 public official.
- 86 (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to prohibit the giving of a lawful political  
87 contribution as defined by law.
- 88 (5) The Governor or his or her designee may, in the name of the State of West Virginia,  
89 accept and receive gifts from any public or private source. Any gift so obtained shall become the  
90 property of the state and shall, within 30 days of the receipt thereof, be registered with the  
91 commission and the Division of Culture and History.
- 92 (6) Upon prior approval of the Joint Committee on Government and Finance, any member

93 of the Legislature may solicit donations for a regional or national legislative organization  
94 conference or other legislative organization function to be held in the state for the purpose of  
95 deferring costs to the state for hosting of the conference or function. Legislative organizations are  
96 bipartisan regional or national organizations in which the Joint Committee on Government and  
97 Finance authorizes payment of dues or other membership fees for the Legislature's participation  
98 and which assist this and other State Legislatures and their staff through any of the following:

99 (A) Advancing the effectiveness, independence, and integrity of Legislatures in the states  
100 of the United States;

101 (B) Fostering interstate cooperation and facilitating information exchange among state  
102 legislatures;

103 (C) Representing the states and their Legislatures in the American federal system of  
104 government;

105 (D) Improving the operations and management of State Legislatures and the effectiveness  
106 of legislators and legislative staff, and to encourage the practice of high standards of conduct by  
107 legislators and legislative staff;

108 (E) Promoting cooperation between State Legislatures in the United States and  
109 Legislatures in other countries.

110 The solicitations may only be made in writing. The legislative organization may act as fiscal  
111 agent for the conference and receive all donations. In the alternative, a bona fide banking  
112 institution may act as the fiscal agent. The official letterhead of the Legislature may not be used by  
113 the legislative member in conjunction with the fund raising or solicitation effort. The legislative  
114 organization for which solicitations are being made shall file with the Joint Committee on  
115 Government and Finance and with the Secretary of State for publication in the State Register as  
116 provided in §29A-2-1 *et seq.* of this code, copies of letters, brochures, and other solicitation  
117 documents, along with a complete list of the names and last known addresses of all donors and  
118 the amount of donations received. Any solicitation by a legislative member shall contain the

119 following disclaimer:

120 "This solicitation is endorsed by [name of member]. This endorsement does not imply  
121 support of the soliciting organization, nor of the sponsors who may respond to the solicitation. A  
122 copy of all solicitations are on file with the West Virginia Legislature's Joint Committee on  
123 Government and Finance, and with the Secretary of State and are available for public review."

124 (7) Upon written notice to the commission, any member of the Board of Public Works may  
125 solicit donations for a regional or national organization conference or other function related to the  
126 office of the member to be held in the state for the purpose of deferring costs to the state for  
127 hosting of the conference or function. The solicitations may only be made in writing. The  
128 organization may act as fiscal agent for the conference and receive all donations. In the  
129 alternative, a bona fide banking institution may act as the fiscal agent. The official letterhead of the  
130 office of the Board of Public Works member may not be used in conjunction with the fund raising or  
131 solicitation effort. The organization for which solicitations are being made shall file with the Joint  
132 Committee on Government and Finance, with the Secretary of State for publication in the State  
133 Register as provided in §29A-2-1 *et seq.* of this code and with the commission, copies of letters,  
134 brochures, and other solicitation documents, along with a complete list of the names and last  
135 known addresses of all donors and the amount of donations received. Any solicitation by a  
136 member of the Board of Public Works shall contain the following disclaimer: "This solicitation is  
137 endorsed by (name of member of Board of Public Works.) This endorsement does not imply  
138 support of the soliciting organization, nor of the sponsors who may respond to the solicitation.  
139 Copies of all solicitations are on file with the West Virginia Legislature's Joint Committee on  
140 Government and Finance, with the West Virginia Secretary of State and with the West Virginia  
141 Ethics Commission and are available for public review." Any moneys in excess of those donations  
142 needed for the conference or function shall be deposited in the Capitol Dome and Capitol  
143 Improvement Fund established in §5A-4-2 *et seq.* of this code.

144 (d) Interests in public contracts. — (1) In addition to the provisions of §61-10-15 of this

145 code, no elected or appointed public official or public employee or member of his or her immediate  
146 family or business with which he or she is associated may be a party to or have an interest in the  
147 profits or benefits of a contract which the official or employee may have direct authority to enter  
148 into, or over which he or she may have control: *Provided*, That nothing herein shall be construed to  
149 prevent or make unlawful the employment of any person with any governmental body: *Provided*,  
150 *however*, That nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit a ~~member of the Legislature from~~  
151 ~~entering into a contract with any governmental body, or prohibit a part-time appointed public~~  
152 ~~official, including a member of the Legislature, from entering into a contract which the part-time~~  
153 ~~appointed public official may have~~ has no direct authority to enter into or over which he or she may  
154 ~~have~~ has no control ~~when the official has not participated in the review or evaluation thereof, has~~  
155 ~~been recused from deciding or evaluating and has been excused from voting on the contract and~~  
156 has fully disclosed the extent of his or her interest in the contract to the person or persons who  
157 have control over the decision and the Ethics Commission, which has reviewed the circumstances  
158 and publicly affirmed that all purchasing rules were followed and the part-time public official is  
159 gaining no special benefit because of his or her position.

160 (2) In the absence of bribery or a purpose to defraud, an elected or appointed public official  
161 or public employee or a member of his or her immediate family or a business with which he or she  
162 is associated shall not be considered as having a prohibited financial interest in a public contract  
163 when such a person has a limited interest as an owner, shareholder, or creditor of the business  
164 which is awarded a public contract. A limited interest for the purposes of this subsection is:

165 (A) An interest which does not exceed \$1,000 in the profits or benefits of the public contract  
166 or contracts in a calendar year;

167 (B) An interest as a creditor of a public employee or official who exercises control over the  
168 contract, or a member of his or her immediate family, if the amount is less than \$5,000.

169 (3) If a public official or employee has an interest in the profits or benefits of a contract, then  
170 he or she may not make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use his or her office or



171 employment to influence a government decision affecting his or her financial or limited financial  
172 interest. Public officials shall also comply with the voting rules prescribed in subsection (j) of this  
173 section.

174 (4) Where the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection would result in the  
175 loss of a quorum in a public body or agency, in excessive cost, undue hardship, or other  
176 substantial interference with the operation of a state, county, municipality, county school board, or  
177 other governmental agency, the affected governmental body or agency may make written  
178 application to the Ethics Commission for an exemption from subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
179 subsection.

180 (e) Confidential information. — No present or former public official or employee may  
181 knowingly and improperly disclose any confidential information acquired by him or her in the  
182 course of his or her official duties nor use such information to further his or her personal interests  
183 or the interests of another person.

184 (f) Prohibited representation. — No present or former elected or appointed public official or  
185 public employee shall, during or after his or her public employment or service, represent a client or  
186 act in a representative capacity with or without compensation on behalf of any person in a  
187 contested case, rate-making proceeding, license or permit application, regulation filing or other  
188 particular matter involving a specific party or parties which arose during his or her period of public  
189 service or employment and in which he or she personally and substantially participated in a  
190 decision-making, advisory or staff support capacity, unless the appropriate government agency,  
191 after consultation, consents to such representation. A staff attorney, accountant or other  
192 professional employee who has represented a government agency in a particular matter shall not  
193 thereafter represent another client in the same or substantially related matter in which that client's  
194 interests are materially adverse to the interests of the government agency, without the consent of  
195 the government agency: *Provided*, That this prohibition on representation shall not apply when the  
196 client was not directly involved in the particular matter in which the professional employee

197 represented the government agency, but was involved only as a member of a class. The  
198 provisions of this subsection shall not apply to legislators who were in office and legislative staff  
199 who were employed at the time it originally became effective on July 1, 1989, and those who have  
200 since become legislators or legislative staff and those who shall serve hereafter as legislators or  
201 legislative staff.

202 (g) Limitation on practice before a board, agency, commission or department. — Except as  
203 otherwise provided in §8A-2-3, §8A-2-4, or §8A-2-5 of this code: (1) No elected or appointed public  
204 official and no full-time staff attorney or accountant shall, during his or her public service or public  
205 employment or for a period of one year after the termination of his or her public service or public  
206 employment with a governmental entity authorized to hear contested cases or promulgate or  
207 propose rules, appear in a representative capacity before the governmental entity in which he or  
208 she serves or served or is or was employed in the following matters:

209 (A) A contested case involving an administrative sanction, action or refusal to act;

210 (B) To support or oppose a proposed rule;

211 (C) To support or contest the issuance or denial of a license or permit;

212 (D) A rate-making proceeding; and

213 (E) To influence the expenditure of public funds.

214 (2) As used in this subsection, "represent" includes any formal or informal appearance  
215 before, or any written or oral communication with, any public agency on behalf of any person:  
216 *Provided*, That nothing contained in this subsection shall prohibit, during any period, a former  
217 public official or employee from being retained by or employed to represent, assist, or act in a  
218 representative capacity on behalf of the public agency by which he or she was employed or in  
219 which he or she served. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent a former public  
220 official or employee from representing another state, county, municipal, or other governmental  
221 entity before the governmental entity in which he or she served or was employed within one year  
222 after the termination of his or her employment or service in the entity.

223 (3) A present or former public official or employee may appear at any time in a  
224 representative capacity before the Legislature, a county commission, city or town council, or  
225 county school board in relation to the consideration of a statute, budget, ordinance, rule,  
226 resolution, or enactment.

227 (4) Members and former members of the Legislature and professional employees and  
228 former professional employees of the Legislature shall be permitted to appear in a representative  
229 capacity on behalf of clients before any governmental agency of the state or of county or municipal  
230 governments, including county school boards.

231 (5) An elected or appointed public official, full-time staff attorney or accountant who would  
232 be adversely affected by the provisions of this subsection may apply to the Ethics Commission for  
233 an exemption from the one year prohibition against appearing in a representative capacity, when  
234 the person's education and experience is such that the prohibition would, for all practical  
235 purposes, deprive the person of the ability to earn a livelihood in this state outside of the  
236 governmental agency. The Ethics Commission shall, by legislative rule, establish general  
237 guidelines or standards for granting an exemption or reducing the time period, but shall decide  
238 each application on a case-by-case basis.

239 (h) Employment by regulated persons and vendors. — (1) No full-time official or full-time  
240 public employee may seek employment with, be employed by, or seek to purchase, sell or lease  
241 real or personal property to or from any person who:

242 (A) Had a matter on which he or she took, or a subordinate is known to have taken,  
243 regulatory action within the preceding 12 months; or

244 (B) Has a matter before the agency on which he or she is working or a subordinate is  
245 known by him or her to be working.

246 (C) Is a vendor to the agency where the official serves or public employee is employed and  
247 the official or public employee, or a subordinate of the official or public employee, exercises  
248 authority or control over a public contract with such vendor, including, but not limited to:

- 249 (i) Drafting bid specifications or requests for proposals;
- 250 (ii) Recommending selection of the vendor;
- 251 (iii) Conducting inspections or investigations;
- 252 (iv) Approving the method or manner of payment to the vendor;
- 253 (v) Providing legal or technical guidance on the formation, implementation or execution of
- 254 the contract; or

255 (vi) Taking other nonministerial action which may affect the financial interests of the vendor.

256 (2) Within the meaning of this section, the term "employment" includes professional  
257 services and other services rendered by the public official or public employee, whether rendered  
258 as employee or as an independent contractor; "seek employment" includes responding to  
259 unsolicited offers of employment as well as any direct or indirect contact with a potential employer  
260 relating to the availability or conditions of employment in furtherance of obtaining employment;  
261 and "subordinate" includes only those agency personnel over whom the public official or public  
262 employee has supervisory responsibility.

263 (3) A full-time public official or full-time public employee who would be adversely affected  
264 by the provisions of this subsection may apply to the Ethics Commission for an exemption from the  
265 prohibition contained in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

266 (A) The Ethics Commission shall, by legislative rule, establish general guidelines or  
267 standards for granting an exemption, but shall decide each application on a case-by-case basis;

268 (B) A person adversely affected by the restriction on the purchase of personal property  
269 may make such purchase after seeking and obtaining approval from the commission or in good  
270 faith reliance upon an official guideline promulgated by the commission, written advisory opinions  
271 issued by the commission, or a legislative rule.

272 (C) The commission may establish exceptions to the personal property purchase  
273 restrictions through the adoption of guidelines, advisory opinions or legislative rule.

274 (4) A full-time public official or full-time public employee may not take personal regulatory

275 action on a matter affecting a person by whom he or she is employed or with whom he or she is  
276 seeking employment or has an agreement concerning future employment.

277 (5) A full-time public official or full-time public employee may not personally participate in a  
278 decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, rendering advice, investigation, inspection, or  
279 other substantial exercise of nonministerial administrative discretion involving a vendor with whom  
280 he or she is seeking employment or has an agreement concerning future employment.

281 (6) A full-time public official or full-time public employee may not receive private  
282 compensation for providing information or services that he or she is required to provide in carrying  
283 out his or her public job responsibilities.

284 (i) Members of the Legislature required to vote. — Members of the Legislature who have  
285 asked to be excused from voting or who have made inquiry as to whether they should be excused  
286 from voting on a particular matter and who are required by the presiding officer of the House of  
287 Delegates or Senate of West Virginia to vote under the rules of the particular house shall not be  
288 guilty of any violation of ethics under the provisions of this section for a vote so cast.

289 (j) Limitations on voting. — (1) Public officials, excluding members of the Legislature who  
290 are governed by subsection (i) of this section, may not vote on a matter:

291 (A) In which they, an immediate family member, or a business with which they or an  
292 immediate family member is associated have a financial interest. Business with which they are  
293 associated means a business of which the person or an immediate family member is a director,  
294 officer, owner, employee, compensated agent, or holder of stock which constitutes five percent or  
295 more of the total outstanding stocks of any class.

296 (B) If a public official is employed by a financial institution and his or her primary  
297 responsibilities include consumer and commercial lending, the public official may not vote on a  
298 matter which directly affects the financial interests of a customer of the financial institution if the  
299 public official is directly involved in approving a loan request from the person or business  
300 appearing before the governmental body or if the public official has been directly involved in

301 approving a loan for that person or business within the past 12 months: *Provided*, That this  
302 limitation only applies if the total amount of the loan or loans exceeds \$15,000.

303 (C) The employment or working conditions of the public official's relative or person with  
304 whom the public official resides.

305 (D) The appropriations of public moneys or the awarding of a contract to a nonprofit  
306 corporation if the public official or an immediate family member is employed by, or a compensated  
307 officer or board member of, the nonprofit: *Provided*, That if the public official or immediate family  
308 member is an uncompensated officer or board member of the nonprofit, then the public official  
309 shall publicly disclose such relationship prior to a vote on the appropriations of public moneys or  
310 award of contract to the nonprofit: *Provided, however*, That for purposes of this paragraph, public  
311 disclosure shall mean disclosure of the public official's, or his or her immediate family member's,  
312 relationship to the nonprofit (i) on the agenda item relating to the appropriation or award contract, if  
313 known at time of agenda, (ii) by the public official at the meeting prior to the vote, and (iii) in the  
314 minutes of the meeting.

315 (2) A public official may vote:

316 (A) If the public official, his or her spouse, immediate family members or relatives or  
317 business with which they are associated are affected as a member of, and to no greater extent  
318 than any other member of a profession, occupation, class of persons or class of businesses. A  
319 class shall consist of not fewer than five similarly situated persons or businesses; or

320 (B) If the matter affects a publicly traded company when:

321 (i) The public official, or dependent family members individually or jointly own less than five  
322 percent of the issued stock in the publicly traded company and the value of the stocks individually  
323 or jointly owned is less than \$10,000; and

324 (ii) Prior to casting a vote the public official discloses his or her interest in the publicly  
325 traded company.

326 (3) For a public official's recusal to be effective, it is necessary to excuse him or herself

327 from participating in the discussion and decision-making process by physically removing him or  
328 herself from the room during the period, fully disclosing his or her interests, and recusing him or  
329 herself from voting on the issue. The recusal shall also be reflected in the meeting minutes.

330 (k) Limitations on participation in licensing and rate-making proceedings. — No public  
331 official or employee may participate within the scope of his or her duties as a public official or  
332 employee, except through ministerial functions as defined in §6B-1-3 of this code, in any license or  
333 rate-making proceeding that directly affects the license or rates of any person, partnership, trust,  
334 business trust, corporation, or association in which the public official or employee or his or her  
335 immediate family owns or controls more than 10 percent. No public official or public employee may  
336 participate within the scope of his or her duties as a public official or public employee, except  
337 through ministerial functions as defined §6B-1-3 of this code, in any license or rate-making  
338 proceeding that directly affects the license or rates of any person to whom the public official or  
339 public employee or his or her immediate family, or a partnership, trust, business trust, corporation  
340 or association of which the public official or employee, or his or her immediate family, owns or  
341 controls more than 10 percent, has sold goods or services totaling more than \$1,000 during the  
342 preceding year, unless the public official or public employee has filed a written statement  
343 acknowledging such sale with the public agency and the statement is entered in any public record  
344 of the agency's proceedings. This subsection shall not be construed to require the disclosure of  
345 clients of attorneys or of patients or clients of persons licensed pursuant to §30-3-1 *et seq.*, §30-8-  
346 1 *et seq.*, §30-14-1 *et seq.*, §30-14A-1 *et seq.*, §30-15-1 *et seq.*, §30-16-1 *et seq.*, §30-20-1 *et*  
347 *seq.*, §30-21-1 *et seq.*, or §30-31-1 *et seq.* of this code.

348 (l) Certain compensation prohibited. — (1) A public employee may not receive additional  
349 compensation from another publicly-funded state, county, or municipal office or employment for  
350 working the same hours, unless:

351 (A) The public employee's compensation from one public employer is reduced by the  
352 amount of compensation received from the other public employer;

353 (B) The public employee's compensation from one public employer is reduced on a pro  
354 rata basis for any work time missed to perform duties for the other public employer;

355 (C) The public employee uses earned paid vacation, personal or compensatory time or  
356 takes unpaid leave from his or her public employment to perform the duties of another public office  
357 or employment; or

358 (D) A part-time public employee who does not have regularly scheduled work hours or a  
359 public employee who is authorized by one public employer to make up, outside of regularly  
360 scheduled work hours, time missed to perform the duties of another public office or employment  
361 maintains time records, verified by the public employee and his or her immediate supervisor at  
362 least once every pay period, showing the hours that the public employee did, in fact, work for each  
363 public employer. The public employer shall submit these time records to the Ethics Commission on  
364 a quarterly basis.

365 (2) This section does not prohibit a retired public official or public employee from receiving  
366 compensation from a publicly-funded office or employment in addition to any retirement benefits to  
367 which the retired public official or public employee is entitled.

368 (m) Certain expenses prohibited. — No public official or public employee shall knowingly  
369 request or accept from any governmental entity compensation or reimbursement for any expenses  
370 actually paid by a lobbyist and required by the provisions of this chapter to be reported, or actually  
371 paid by any other person.

372 (n) Any person who is employed as a member of the faculty or staff of a public institution of  
373 higher education and who is engaged in teaching, research, consulting, or publication activities in  
374 his or her field of expertise with public or private entities and thereby derives private benefits from  
375 such activities shall be exempt from the prohibitions contained in subsections (b), (c) and (d) of this  
376 section when the activity is approved as a part of an employment contract with the governing  
377 board of the institution or has been approved by the employee's department supervisor or the  
378 president of the institution by which the faculty or staff member is employed.



379 (o) Except as provided in this section, a person who is a public official or public employee  
380 may not solicit private business from a subordinate public official or public employee whom he or  
381 she has the authority to direct, supervise or control. A person who is a public official or public  
382 employee may solicit private business from a subordinate public official or public employee whom  
383 he or she has the authority to direct, supervise or control when:

384 (A) The solicitation is a general solicitation directed to the public at large through the  
385 mailing or other means of distribution of a letter, pamphlet, handbill, circular, or other written or  
386 printed media; or

387 (B) The solicitation is limited to the posting of a notice in a communal work area; or

388 (C) The solicitation is for the sale of property of a kind that the person is not regularly  
389 engaged in selling; or

390 (D) The solicitation is made at the location of a private business owned or operated by the  
391 person to which the subordinate public official or public employee has come on his or her own  
392 initiative.

393 (p) The commission may, by legislative rule promulgated in accordance with chapter 29A  
394 of this code, define further exemptions from this section as necessary or appropriate.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit members of the Legislature and part-time public officials from having an interest in public contracts under certain circumstances; requires certain disclosures; and requires the ethics commission to conduct oversight and make a public statement in certain circumstances.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.