
DIGEST

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Gallot

HB No. 921

Abstract: Allows an elected official to accept complimentary admission to a civic or non-profit event when the public servant is a program honoree, is giving a speech at the event, or is a panel member for a discussion occurring at the event. Additionally allows an elected official to accept complimentary admission to an educational event or to a fundraising event for a candidate or political party. Does not allow acceptance of admission to any professional, semi-professional, or collegiate sporting event or fishing, hunting, or golf unless the fishing, hunting, or golf is directly related to a fundraising event for a candidate or political party and the elected official is invited to participate by the host of the event.

Present law (R.S. 42:1111) prohibits a public servant (which includes a public employee or an elected official) from receiving any thing of economic value, other than compensation and benefits from the governmental entity to which he is entitled, for the performance of his duties. Present law (R.S. 42:1115(A)) prohibits a public servant from soliciting or accepting any thing of economic value as a gift or gratuity from any person if the public servant knows or should know that such person has or is seeking to obtain a business relationship with the public servant's agency or is seeking to influence the passage or defeat of legislation by the public servant's agency. Present law (R.S. 42:1115(B)) prohibits a public employee from soliciting or accepting any thing of economic value as a gift or gratuity from any person if the public employee knows or should know that such person conducts operations or activities which are regulated by the public employee's agency or has substantial economic interests which may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the public employee's official duty. Present law (R.S. 42:1102(22)) defines a "thing of economic value" as money or any other thing having economic value except promotional items having no substantial resale value. Contains certain other exceptions including the acceptance of food, drink, or refreshments consumed by a public servant while the personal guest of a person, including reasonable transportation and entertainment incidental thereto.

Present law provides an exception to allow an elected official to accept complimentary admission to a civic, non-profit, educational, or political event when the elected official is a program honoree, is a speech presenter, or is a panel member. Present law provides that the exception does not apply to any admission to any professional, semi-professional, or collegiate sporting event; or any fishing trip, hunting trip, or golf outing unless such trip or outing is associated with a candidate's, elected official's, or organization's fund-raising event open to the general public.

Proposed law provides instead that an elected official may accept complimentary admission to a civic or non-profit event when the public servant is a program honoree, is giving a speech at the

event, or is a panel member for a discussion occurring at the event. Proposed law additionally allows an elected official to accept complimentary admission to an educational event or to a fundraising event for a candidate or political party. Provides that proposed law exception does not apply to admission to any professional, semi-professional, or collegiate sporting event or to fishing, hunting, or golf unless the fishing, hunting, or golf is directly related to a fundraising event for a candidate or political party and the elected official is invited to participate by the host of the event.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 42:1123(13))