



State of Tennessee
Department of Treasury

Employee Guidebook

Gifts and Solicitations

No employee or any member of a Board, Commission or Committee administratively attached to the Department shall solicit, accept or agree to accept, directly or indirectly, on behalf themselves or their immediate family, any gift in violation of state law including, but not limited to, any gratuity, service, favor, entertainment, lodging, transportation, loan, loan guarantee rebate, money, any promise, obligation or contract for future awards or compensation or any other thing of monetary value, from any **individual** or **entity** that:

- Has, or is seeking to obtain, contractual or other business or financial relations with the Treasury Department or the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System;
- Conducts operations or activities that are regulated by the Treasury Department;
- May bid on future procurement from the Department or a Board, Commission, or Committee administratively attached to the Department based on the employee's reasonable belief that the person or entity intends to submit a bid; or
- Has an interest that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the employee's official duties.

Generally, gifts from a lobbyist or an employer of a lobbyist are prohibited; however, the following are exceptions to the general gift prohibition:

- A gift given for nonbusiness purpose and motivated by a close personal friendship and not by the position of the employee, and specifically authorized and defined by the Ethics Commission;
- Informational materials in the form of books, articles, periodicals, other written materials, audiotapes, videotapes, or other forms of communication;
- Sample merchandise, promotional items, and appreciation tokens if they are routinely given to customers, suppliers or potential customers or suppliers in the ordinary course of business;
- Unsolicited tokens or awards of appreciation, honorary degrees, or bona fide awards in recognition of public service in the form of a plaque, trophy, desk item, wall memento, and similar items, provided that any such item shall not be in a form which can readily be converted to cash;
- Benefits resulting from business, employment, or other outside activities of the employee or the employee's immediate family, if such benefits are customarily provided to others in similar circumstances and are not enhanced due to the status of the employee;
- Opportunities and benefits made available to all members of an appropriate class of the general public, including but not limited to, discounts afforded to the general public or prizes and awards given out in public contests;
- Expenses of out-of-state travel, if such expenses are paid for or reimbursed by a governmental entity or an established and recognized organization of elected or appointed state government officials;

- Food, refreshments, amenities, goody bags, entertainment, or beverages provided as part of a meal, reception or similar event including tradeshow and professional meetings; and
- Food, refreshments, meals, foodstuffs, entertainment, beverages that are provided in connection with the following: an event where the employee is a speaker or part of a panel discussion at a scheduled meeting of an established or recognized membership organization which regularly meets at in-state events in which invitations are extended to legislative or executive branch employees. The value of the items shall not exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) per person, per day.*

* The amount may be increased to reflect the percentage of change in the average consumer price index. The Ethics Commission publishes the increased amount on its website.

For other gifts offered which are not included in the exceptions above, the employee must obtain the written approval of the Assistant Treasurer for Legal, Compliance and Audit.

[REDACTED]