

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 169

5 By: Senator E. Williams  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT PERMITTING THE USE OF ROOMS OR FACILITIES  
9 OWNED, OPERATED, OR OTHERWISE UTILIZED BY STATE  
10 AGENCIES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS FOR MEETINGS OF  
11 SPECIFIC GOVERNMENTAL BODIES; AMENDING THE ARKANSAS  
12 CONSTITUTION UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF ARKANSAS  
13 CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 19, § 30; AND FOR OTHER  
14 PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

17 PERMITTING THE USE OF ROOMS OR FACILITIES  
18 BELONGING TO STATE AGENCIES OR POLITICAL  
19 SUBDIVISIONS FOR MEETINGS OF SPECIFIC  
20 GOVERNMENTAL BODIES; AND AMENDING THE  
21 ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION UNDER ARKANSAS  
22 CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 19, § 30.  
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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28 SECTION 1. Pursuant to the authority under Arkansas Constitution,  
29 Article 19, § 30(d)(1), Arkansas Constitution, Article 19, § 30(b)(2)(B),  
30 concerning the definition of "gift", is amended to read as follows:

31 (B) "Gift" does not include:

32 (i)(a) Informational material such as books, reports,  
33 pamphlets, calendars, or periodicals informing a person elected or appointed  
34 to an office under subsection (a) of this section regarding his or her  
35 official duties.

36 (b) Payments for travel or reimbursement for any



1 expenses are not informational material;

2 (ii) Gifts that are not used and which, within thirty (30)  
3 days after receipt, are returned to the donor;

4 (iii) Gifts from the spouse, child, parent, grandparent,  
5 grandchild, brother, sister, parent-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law,  
6 nephew, niece, aunt, uncle, or first cousin of a person elected or appointed  
7 to an office under subsection (a) of this section, or the spouse of any of  
8 these persons, unless the person is acting as an agent or intermediary for  
9 any person not covered by this subdivision (b)(2)(B)(iii);

10 (iv) Anything of value that is readily available to the  
11 general public at no cost;

12 (v)(a)(1) Food or drink available at a planned activity to  
13 which a specific governmental body is invited, including without limitation a  
14 governmental body to which a person elected or appointed to an office under  
15 subsection (a) of this section is not a member.

16 (2) If a committee of the General Assembly is  
17 invited to a planned activity under subdivision (b)(2)(B)(v)(a)(1) of this  
18 section, only members of the committee of the General Assembly may accept  
19 food or drink at the planned activity.

20 (b)(1) As used in this subdivision (b)(2)(B)(v),  
21 "planned activity" means an event for which a written invitation is  
22 distributed electronically or by other means by the lobbyist, person acting  
23 on behalf of a lobbyist, or a person employing or contracting with a lobbyist  
24 to the members of the specific governmental body at least twenty-four (24)  
25 hours before the event.

26 (2) As used in this subdivision (b)(2)(B)(v),  
27 "planned activity" does not include food or drink available at a meeting of a  
28 specific governmental body for which the person elected or appointed to an  
29 office under subsection (a) of this section is entitled to receive per diem  
30 for attendance at the meeting.

31 (c) A lobbyist, a person acting on behalf of a  
32 lobbyist, or a person employing or contracting with a lobbyist shall not  
33 offer or pay for food or drink at more than one (1) planned activity in a  
34 seven-day period;

35 (vi)(a) Payments by regional or national organizations for  
36 travel to regional or national conferences at which the State of Arkansas is

1 requested to be represented by a person or persons elected or appointed to an  
2 office under subsection (a) of this section.

3 (b) As used in this subdivision (b)(2)(B)(vi),  
4 “travel” means transportation, lodging, and conference registration fees.

5 (c) This section does not prohibit the acceptance  
6 of:

7 (1) Food, drink, informational materials, or  
8 other items included in the conference registration fee; and

9 (2) Food and drink at events coordinated  
10 through the regional or national conference and provided to persons  
11 registered to attend the regional or national conference;

12 (vii) Campaign contributions;

13 (viii) Any devise or inheritance;

14 (ix) Salaries, benefits, services, fees, commissions,  
15 expenses, or anything of value in connection with:

16 (a) The employment or occupation of a person elected  
17 or appointed to an office under subsection (a) of this section or his or her  
18 spouse so long as the salary, benefit, service, fee, commission, expense, or  
19 anything of value is solely connected with the person’s employment or  
20 occupation and is unrelated to and does not arise from the duties or  
21 responsibilities of the office to which the person has been elected or  
22 appointed; or

23 (b) Service as an officer, director, or board member  
24 of a corporation, a firm registered to do business in the state, or other  
25 organization that files a state and federal tax return or is an affiliate of  
26 an organization that files a state and federal tax return by a person elected  
27 or appointed to an office under subsection (a) of this section or his or her  
28 spouse so long as the salary, benefit, service, fee, commission, expense, or  
29 anything of value is solely connected with the person’s service as an  
30 officer, director, or board member and is unrelated to and does not arise  
31 from the duties or responsibilities of the office to which the person has  
32 been elected or appointed; ~~and~~

33 (x) A personalized award, plaque, or trophy with a value  
34 of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) or less; and

35 (xi)(a) The use of one (1) or more rooms or facilities  
36 owned, operated, or otherwise utilized by a state agency or political

1 subdivision of the state for the purpose of conducting a meeting of a  
2 specific governmental body.

3 (b) As used in this subdivision (b)(2)(B)(xi):

4 (1) "Rooms or facilities" includes without  
5 limitation property belonging to a state agency or political subdivision used  
6 in connection with a meeting of a specific governmental body such as  
7 projectors, microphones, and computer equipment; and

8 (2) "State agency" means every department,  
9 division, office, board, commission, and institution of this state, including  
10 state-supported institutions of higher education.

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