

26104530D

HOUSE BILL NO. 620

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 13, 2026

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-419 and 30-101 of the Code of Virginia, relating to General Assembly Conflicts of Interests Act; definition of "gift."

Patron—Bloxom

Committee Referral Pending

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That §§ 2.2-419 and 30-101 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 2.2-419. Definitions.**

As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Anything of value" means:

1. A pecuniary item, including money; or a bank bill or note;
 2. A promissory note, bill of exchange, order, draft, warrant, check, or bond given for the payment of money;
 3. A contract, agreement, promise, or other obligation for an advance, conveyance, forgiveness of indebtedness, deposit, distribution, loan, payment, gift, pledge, or transfer of money;
 4. A stock, bond, note, or other investment interest in an entity;
 5. A receipt given for the payment of money or other property;
 6. A right in action;
 7. A gift, tangible good, chattel, or an interest in a gift, tangible good, or chattel;
 8. A loan or forgiveness of indebtedness;
 9. A work of art, antique, or collectible;
 10. An automobile or other means of personal transportation;
 11. Real property or an interest in real property, including title to realty, a fee simple or partial interest, present or future, contingent or vested within realty, a leasehold interest, or other beneficial interest in realty;
 12. An honorarium or compensation for services;
 13. A rebate or discount in the price of anything of value unless the rebate or discount is made in the ordinary course of business to a member of the public without regard to that person's status as an executive or legislative official, or the sale or trade of something for reasonable compensation that would ordinarily not be available to a member of the public;
 14. A promise or offer of employment; or
 15. Any other thing of value that is pecuniary or compensatory in value to a person.
- "Anything of value" does not mean a campaign contribution properly received and reported pursuant to Chapter 9.3 (§ 24.2-945 et seq.) of Title 24.2.
- "Compensation" means:
1. An advance, conveyance, forgiveness of indebtedness, deposit, distribution, loan, payment, gift, pledge, or transfer of money or anything of value; or
 2. A contract, agreement, promise or other obligation for an advance, conveyance, forgiveness of indebtedness, deposit, distribution, loan, payment, gift, pledge, or transfer of money or anything of value, for services rendered or to be rendered.
- "Compensation" does not mean reimbursement of expenses if the reimbursement does not exceed the amount actually expended for the expenses and it is substantiated by an itemization of expenses.
- "Council" means the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council established in § 30-355.
- "Executive action" means the proposal, drafting, development, consideration, amendment, adoption, approval, promulgation, issuance, modification, rejection, or postponement by an executive agency or official of legislation or executive orders issued by the Governor. "Executive action" includes procurement transactions.
- "Executive agency" means an agency, board, commission, or other body in the executive branch of state government. "Executive agency" includes the State Corporation Commission, the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission, and the Virginia Lottery.
- "Executive official" means:
1. The Governor;
 2. The Lieutenant Governor;
 3. The Attorney General;
 4. Any officer or employee of the office of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Attorney General other

INTRODUCED

HB620

59 than a clerical or secretarial employee;

60 5. The Governor's Secretaries, the Deputy Secretaries, and the chief executive officer of each executive
61 agency; or

62 6. Members of supervisory and policy boards, commissions and councils, as defined in § 2.2-2100,
63 however selected.

64 "Expenditure" means:

65 1. A purchase, payment, distribution, loan, forgiveness of a loan or payment of a loan by a third party,
66 advance, deposit, transfer of funds, a promise to make a payment, or a gift of money or anything of value for
67 any purpose;

68 2. A payment to a lobbyist for salary, fee, reimbursement for expenses, or other purpose by a person
69 employing, retaining, or contracting for the services of the lobbyist separately or jointly with other persons;

70 3. A payment in support of or assistance to a lobbyist or the lobbyist's activities, including the direct
71 payment of expenses incurred at the request or suggestion of the lobbyist;

72 4. A payment that directly benefits an executive or legislative official or a member of the official's
73 immediate family;

74 5. A payment, including compensation, payment, or reimbursement for the services, time, or expenses of
75 an employee for or in connection with direct communication with an executive or legislative official;

76 6. A payment for, or in connection with, soliciting or urging other persons to enter into direct
77 communication with an executive or legislative official; or

78 7. A payment or reimbursement for categories of expenditures required to be reported pursuant to this
79 chapter.

80 "Expenditure" does not mean a campaign contribution properly received and reported pursuant to Chapter
81 9.3 (§ 24.2-945 et seq.) of Title 24.2.

82 "Fair market value" means the price that a good or service would bring between a willing seller and a
83 willing buyer in the open market after negotiations. If the fair market value cannot be determined, the actual
84 price paid for the good or service shall be given consideration.

85 "Gift" means anything of value, including any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan,
86 forbearance, or other item having monetary value, and includes services as well as gifts of transportation,
87 local travel, lodgings, and meals, whether provided in-kind or by purchase of a ticket, payment in advance, or
88 reimbursement after the expense has been incurred.

89 "Gift" does not mean:

90 1. Printed informational or promotional material;

91 2. A gift that is not used and, no later than 60 days after receipt, is returned to the donor or delivered to a
92 charitable organization and is not claimed as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes;

93 3. A devise or inheritance;

94 4. A gift of a value of less than \$20;

95 5. Any offer of a ticket, coupon, or other admission or pass unless the ticket, coupon, admission, or pass is
96 used;

97 6. Any food or beverages provided to an individual at an event at which the individual is performing
98 official duties related to his public service;

99 7. Any food and beverages received at or registration or attendance fees waived for any event at which the
100 individual is a featured speaker, presenter, or lecturer;

101 8. An unsolicited award of appreciation or recognition in the form of a plaque, trophy, wall memento, or
102 similar item that is given in recognition of public, civic, charitable, or professional service;

103 9. Any gift to an individual's spouse, child, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, or first cousin; a person to whom
104 the donee is engaged to be married; the donee's or his spouse's parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister,
105 step-parent, step-grandparent, step-grandchild, step-brother, or step-sister; or the donee's brother's or sister's
106 spouse or the donee's son-in-law or daughter-in-law;

107 10. Travel provided to facilitate attendance by a legislator at a regular or special session of the General
108 Assembly, a meeting of a legislative committee or commission, or a national conference where attendance is
109 approved by the House Committee on Rules or its Chairman or the Senate Committee on Rules or its
110 Chairman;

111 11. Travel related to an official meeting of, or any meal provided for attendance at such meeting by, the
112 Commonwealth, its political subdivisions, or any board, commission, authority, or other entity, or any
113 charitable organization established pursuant to § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code affiliated with such
114 entity, to which such person has been appointed or elected or is a member by virtue of his office or
115 employment; or

116 12. Attendance at a reception or similar function where food, such as hors d'oeuvres, and beverages that
117 can be conveniently consumed by a person while standing or walking are offered; or

118 13. Any food or beverages provided to and consumed by legislators representing different political parties
119 while such legislators are sitting and sharing a meal together of a base value of less than \$200 using 2026 as
120 the base year, adjusted in even-numbered years by the United States Average Consumer Price Index for all

items, all urban consumers (CPI-U), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10.

"Immediate family" means (i) the spouse and (ii) any other person who resides in the same household as the executive or legislative official and who is a dependent of the official.

"Legislative action" means:

1. Preparation, research, drafting, introduction, consideration, modification, amendment, approval, passage, enactment, tabling, postponement, defeat, or rejection of a bill, resolution, amendment, motion, report, nomination, appointment, or other matter by the General Assembly or a legislative official;

2. Action by the Governor in approving, vetoing, or recommending amendments for a bill passed by the General Assembly; or

3. Action by the General Assembly in overriding or sustaining a veto by the Governor, considering amendments recommended by the Governor, or considering, confirming, or rejecting an appointment of the Governor.

"Legislative official" means:

1. A member or member-elect of the General Assembly;

2. A member of a committee, subcommittee, commission, or other entity established by and responsible to the General Assembly or either house of the General Assembly; or

3. Persons employed by the General Assembly or an entity established by and responsible to the General Assembly.

"Lobbying" means:

1. Influencing or attempting to influence executive or legislative action through oral or written communication with an executive or legislative official; or

2. Solicitation of others to influence an executive or legislative official.

"Lobbying" does not mean:

1. Requests for appointments, information on the status of pending executive and legislative actions, or other ministerial contacts if there is no attempt to influence executive or legislative actions;

2. Responses to published notices soliciting public comment submitted to the public official designated in the notice to receive the responses;

3. The solicitation of an association by its members to influence legislative or executive action; or

4. Communications between an association and its members and communications between a principal and its lobbyists.

"Lobbyist" means:

1. An individual who is employed and receives payments, or who contracts for economic consideration, including reimbursement for reasonable travel and living expenses, for the purpose of lobbying;

2. An individual who represents an organization, association, or other group for the purpose of lobbying; or

3. A local government employee who lobbies.

"Lobbyist's principal" or "principal" means the entity on whose behalf the lobbyist influences or attempts to influence executive or legislative action. An organization whose employees conduct lobbying activities on its behalf is both a principal and an employer of the lobbyists. In the case of a coalition or association that employs or retains others to conduct lobbying activities on behalf of its membership, the principal is the coalition or association and not its individual members.

"Local government" means:

1. Any county, city, town, or other local or regional political subdivision;

2. Any school division;

3. Any organization or entity that exercises governmental powers that is established pursuant to an interstate compact; or

4. Any organization composed of members representing entities listed in subdivisions 1, 2, or 3 of this definition.

"Local government employee" means a public employee of a local government.

"Person" means an individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, joint stock company, syndicate, business trust, estate, company, corporation, association, club, committee, organization, or group of persons acting in concert.

"Procurement transaction" means all functions that pertain to obtaining all goods, services, or construction on behalf of an executive agency, including description of requirements, selection and solicitation of sources, preparation and award of contract, and all phases of contract administration where the stated or expected value of the contract is \$5 million or more.

"Secretary" means the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

"Value" means the actual cost or fair market value of an item or items, whichever is greater. If the fair market value cannot be determined, the actual amount paid for the item or items shall be given consideration.

"Widely attended event" means an event at which at least 25 persons have been invited to attend or there

is a reasonable expectation that at least 25 persons will attend the event and the event is open to individuals (i) who are members of a public, civic, charitable, or professional organization, (ii) who are from a particular industry or profession, or (iii) who represent persons interested in a particular issue.

§ 30-101. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Advisory agency" means any board, commission, committee or post which does not exercise any sovereign power or duty, but is appointed by a governmental agency or officer or is created by law for the purpose of making studies or recommendations, or advising or consulting with a governmental agency.

"Business" means a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, trust or foundation, or any other individual or entity carrying on a business or profession, whether or not for profit.

"Candidate" means a person who seeks or campaigns for election to the General Assembly in a general, primary, or special election and who is qualified to have his name placed on the ballot for the office. The candidate shall become subject to the provisions of this section upon the filing of a statement of qualification pursuant to § 24.2-501. The State Board of Elections shall notify each such candidate of the provisions of this chapter.

"Contract" means any agreement to which a governmental agency is a party, or any agreement on behalf of a governmental agency that involves the payment of money appropriated by the General Assembly or a political subdivision, whether or not such agreement is executed in the name of the Commonwealth, or some political subdivision thereof. "Contract" includes a subcontract only when the contract of which it is a part is with the legislator's own governmental agency.

"Council" means the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council established in § 30-355.

"Financial institution" means any bank, trust company, savings institution, industrial loan association, consumer finance company, credit union, broker-dealer as defined in subsection A of § 13.1-501, or investment company or advisor registered under the federal Investment Advisors Act or Investment Company Act of 1940.

"Gift" means any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other item having monetary value. It includes services as well as gifts of transportation, lodgings and meals, whether provided in-kind, by purchase of a ticket, payment in advance, or reimbursement after the expense has been incurred. "Gift" does not include (i) any offer of a ticket, coupon, or other admission or pass unless the ticket, coupon, admission, or pass is used; (ii) honorary degrees; (iii) any athletic, merit, or need-based scholarship or any other financial aid awarded by a public or private school, institution of higher education, or other educational program pursuant to such school, institution, or program's financial aid standards and procedures applicable to the general public; (iv) a campaign contribution properly received and reported pursuant to Chapter 9.3 (§ 24.2-945 et seq.) of Title 24.2; (v) any gift related to the private profession or occupation or volunteer service of a legislator or of a member of his immediate family; (vi) food or beverages consumed while attending an event at which the filer is performing official duties related to his public service; (vii) food and beverages received at or registration or attendance fees waived for any event at which the filer is a featured speaker, presenter, or lecturer; (viii) unsolicited awards of appreciation or recognition in the form of a plaque, trophy, wall memento, or similar item that is given in recognition of public, civic, charitable, or professional service; (ix) a devise or inheritance; (x) travel disclosed pursuant to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (§ 24.2-945 et seq.); (xi) travel paid for or provided by the government of the United States, any of its territories, or any state or any political subdivision of such state; (xii) travel provided to facilitate attendance by a legislator at a regular or special session of the General Assembly, a meeting of a legislative committee or commission, or a national conference where attendance is approved by the House Committee on Rules or its Chairman or the Senate Committee on Rules or its Chairman; (xiii) travel related to an official meeting of, or any meal provided for attendance at such meeting by, the Commonwealth, its political subdivisions, or any board, commission, authority, or other entity, or any charitable organization established pursuant to § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code affiliated with such entity, to which such person has been appointed or elected or is a member by virtue of his office or employment; (xiv) gifts with a value of less than \$20; (xv) attendance at a reception or similar function where food, such as hors d'oeuvres, and beverages that can be conveniently consumed by a person while standing or walking are offered; *(xvi) food and beverages consumed by a legislator while sitting and sharing a meal with at least one legislator of a different political party of a base value of less than \$200 using 2026 as the base year, adjusted in even-numbered years by the United States Average Consumer Price Index for all items, all urban consumers (CPI-U), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10; or ~~(xvi)~~ (xvii) gifts from relatives or personal friends.* For the purpose of this definition, "relative" means the donee's spouse, child, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, or first cousin; a person to whom the donee is engaged to be married; the donee's or his spouse's parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, step-parent, step-grandparent, step-grandchild, step-brother, or step-sister; or the donee's brother's or sister's spouse or the donee's son-in-law or daughter-in-law. For the purpose of this definition, "personal friend" does not include any person that the filer knows or has reason to know is (a) a lobbyist registered pursuant to

Article 3 (§ 2.2-418 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 2.2 or (b) a lobbyist's principal as defined in § 2.2-419.

"Governmental agency" means each component part of the legislative, executive or judicial branches of state and local government, including each office, department, authority, post, commission, committee, and each institution or board created by law to exercise some regulatory or sovereign power or duty as distinguished from purely advisory powers or duties.

"Immediate family" means (i) a spouse and (ii) any other person who resides in the same household as the legislator and who is a dependent of the legislator.

"Legislator" means a member of the General Assembly.

"Personal interest" means a financial benefit or liability accruing to a legislator or to a member of his immediate family. Such interest shall exist by reason of (i) ownership in a business if the ownership interest exceeds three percent of the total equity of the business; (ii) annual income that exceeds, or may reasonably be anticipated to exceed, \$5,000 from ownership in real or personal property or a business; (iii) salary, other compensation, fringe benefits, or benefits from the use of property, or any combination thereof, paid or provided by a business or governmental agency that exceeds, or may reasonably be anticipated to exceed, \$5,000 annually; (iv) ownership of real or personal property if the interest exceeds \$5,000 in value and excluding ownership in a business, income, or salary, other compensation, fringe benefits or benefits from the use of property; (v) personal liability incurred or assumed on behalf of a business if the liability exceeds three percent of the asset value of the business; or (vi) an option for ownership of a business or real or personal property if the ownership interest will consist of clause (i) or (iv).

"Personal interest in a contract" means a personal interest that a legislator has in a contract with a governmental agency, whether due to his being a party to the contract or due to a personal interest in a business that is a party to the contract.

"Personal interest in a transaction" means a personal interest of a legislator in any matter considered by the General Assembly. Such personal interest exists when a legislator or a member of his immediate family has a personal interest in property or a business, or represents or provides services to any individual or business and such property, business or represented or served individual or business (i) is the subject of the transaction or (ii) may realize a reasonably foreseeable direct or indirect benefit or detriment as a result of the action of the agency considering the transaction. A "personal interest in a transaction" exists only if the legislator or member of his immediate family or an individual or business represented or served by the legislator is affected in a way that is substantially different from the general public or from persons comprising a profession, occupation, trade, business or other comparable and generally recognizable class or group of which he or the individual or business he represents or serves is a member.

"Transaction" means any matter considered by the General Assembly, whether in a committee, subcommittee, or other entity of the General Assembly or before the General Assembly itself, on which official action is taken or contemplated.