

Committee Substitute for  
Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 181

An act relating to ethics; amending s. 112.312, F.S.; redefining the terms “gift” and “liability”; amending s. 112.3144, F.S.; transferring filing administration from the Secretary of State to the Commission on Ethics; modifying the filing location for officers from the Secretary of State to the commission; establishing an automatic fine system for delinquent filers and nonfilers; requiring former officers and employees to file a final disclosure of financial interests no later than 60 days following departure, with certain exceptions; requiring the Commission on Ethics to adopt rules and forms relating to filing amended full and public disclosure of financial interests; amending s. 112.3145, F.S.; redefining the term “local officer”; revising the reporting requirements for limited statutory disclosure of financial interests; transferring filing administration from the Secretary of State to the Commission on Ethics; modifying the filing location for state officers and specified state employees from the Secretary of State to the commission; modifying certification requirements of supervisors of elections with regard to delinquent filers and nonfilers; establishing an automatic fine system for delinquent filers and nonfilers; requiring former officers and employees to file a final statement of financial interests within 60 days after leaving office or employment, with certain exceptions; modifying reporting dates for filing quarterly reports of the names of clients represented before certain agencies for a fee; requiring the Commission on Ethics to adopt rules and forms relating to amended financial disclosure filings; amending s. 112.3148, F.S.; redefining the term “reporting individual”; establishing a reimbursement deadline with regard to the valuation of gifts received by reporting individuals; clarifying that the gifts law applies to candidates; extending the gifts law to include nonincumbents elected to office for the period immediately following election but before officially taking office; transferring the filing administration for gift disclosure from the Secretary of State to the Commission on Ethics; authorizing the Technological Research and Development Authority to make certain gifts under certain circumstances; amending s. 112.3149, F.S.; transferring filing administration for honoraria disclosure from the Department of State to the Commission on Ethics; amending s. 112.321, F.S.; regarding membership of the Ethics Commission; repealing s. 112.322(9), F.S., which requires the Commission on Ethics to report certain delinquent financial disclosure filers to the Department of Community Affairs; amending s. 440.442, F.S.; transferring the filing location for public financial reporting by judges of compensation claims from the Secretary of State to the Commission on Ethics; clarifying that the Code of Judicial Conduct governs the reporting of gifts for judges of compensation claims; repealing ss. 839.08, 839.09, 839.091, and 839.10, F.S., which provide criminal penalties for offenses by public officers and employees relating to the purchase

of supplies or materials and the bidding for public work; creating s. 112.3232, F.S.; authorizing the Commission on Ethics to seek immunity for certain witnesses; amending s. 112.3147, F.S.; authorizing the Commission on Ethics to prescribe forms relating to full and public financial disclosure; prescribing requirements for reporting certain assets and liabilities on the full and public disclosure form; providing for a report by the Commission on Ethics on the implementation of educational requirements for public officials; appropriating funds to the Commission on Ethics; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (12) and (14) of section 112.312, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

112.312 Definitions.—As used in this part and for purposes of the provisions of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:

(12)(a) “Gift,” for purposes of ethics in government and financial disclosure required by law, means that which is accepted by a donee or by another on the donee’s behalf, or that which is paid or given to another for or on behalf of a donee, directly, indirectly, or in trust for the donee’s benefit or by any other means, for which equal or greater consideration is not given within 90 days, including:

1. Real property.
2. The use of real property.
3. Tangible or intangible personal property.
4. The use of tangible or intangible personal property.
5. A preferential rate or terms on a debt, loan, goods, or services, which rate is below the customary rate and is not either a government rate available to all other similarly situated government employees or officials or a rate which is available to similarly situated members of the public by virtue of occupation, affiliation, age, religion, sex, or national origin.
6. Forgiveness of an indebtedness.
7. Transportation, other than that provided to a public officer or employee by an agency in relation to officially approved governmental business, lodging, or parking.
8. Food or beverage.
9. Membership dues.
10. Entrance fees, admission fees, or tickets to events, performances, or facilities.

11. Plants, flowers, or floral arrangements.
12. Services provided by persons pursuant to a professional license or certificate.
13. Other personal services for which a fee is normally charged by the person providing the services.
14. Any other similar service or thing having an attributable value not already provided for in this section.

(b) "Gift" does not include:

1. Salary, benefits, services, fees, commissions, gifts, or expenses associated primarily with the donee's employment, business, or service as an officer or director of a corporation or organization.
2. Contributions or expenditures reported pursuant to chapter 106, campaign-related personal services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering their time, or any other contribution or expenditure by a political party.
3. An honorarium or an expense related to an honorarium event paid to a person or the person's spouse.
4. An award, plaque, certificate, or similar personalized item given in recognition of the donee's public, civic, charitable, or professional service.
5. An honorary membership in a service or fraternal organization presented merely as a courtesy by such organization.
6. The use of a public facility or public property, made available by a governmental agency, for a public purpose.
7. Transportation provided to a public officer or employee by an agency in relation to officially approved governmental business.
8. Gifts provided directly or indirectly by a state, regional, or national organization which promotes the exchange of ideas between, or the professional development of, governmental officials or employees, and whose membership is primarily composed of elected or appointed public officials or staff, to members of that organization or officials or staff of a governmental agency that is a member of that organization.

(c) For the purposes of paragraph (a), "intangible personal property" means property as defined in s. 192.001(11)(b).

(d) For the purposes of paragraph (a), the term "consideration" does not include a promise to pay or otherwise provide something of value unless the promise is in writing and enforceable through the courts.

(14) "Liability" means any monetary debt or obligation owed by the reporting person to another person, entity, or governmental entity, except for credit card and retail installment accounts, taxes owed unless reduced to a

judgment, indebtedness on a life insurance policy owed to the company of issuance, contingent liabilities, or accrued income taxes on net unrealized appreciation. Each liability which is required to be disclosed by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution shall identify the name and address of the creditor.

Section 2. Section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3144 Full and public disclosure of financial interests.—

(1) A person who is required, pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, to file a full and public disclosure of financial interests for any calendar or fiscal year shall file the disclosure with the Florida Commission on Ethics.

~~(2)~~(1) A No person who is required, pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, to file a full and public disclosure of financial interests and who has filed a full and public disclosure of financial interests for any calendar or fiscal year shall not be required to file a statement of financial interests pursuant to s. 112.3145(2) and (3) for the same year or for any part thereof notwithstanding any requirement of this part, except that a candidate for office shall file a copy of his or her disclosure with the officer before whom he or she qualifies.

~~(3)~~(2) For purposes of full and public disclosure under s. 8(a), Art. II of the State Constitution, the following items, if not held for investment purposes and if valued at over \$1,000 in the aggregate, may be reported in a lump sum and identified as “household goods and personal effects”:

- (a) Jewelry;
- (b) Collections of stamps, guns, and numismatic properties;
- (c) Art objects;
- (d) Household equipment and furnishings;
- (e) Clothing;
- (f) Other household items; and
- (g) Vehicles for personal use.

~~(4)~~(3) Forms for compliance with the full and public disclosure requirements of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, ~~and a current list of persons required to file full and public disclosure by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, or other state law, shall be created provided by the Commission on Ethics. The commission to the Secretary of State, who shall give notice of disclosure deadlines and delinquencies and distribute forms in the following manner:~~

(a) Not later than May 1 of each year, the ~~commission on Ethics~~ shall prepare a current list of the names and addresses of and the offices held by every person required to file full and public disclosure annually by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, or other state law, ~~and shall provide the Secretary of State with the mailing list.~~ In compiling the list, the commission shall

be assisted by each unit of government in providing at the request of the commission the name, address, and name of the office held by each public official within the respective unit of government.

(b) ~~Not later than 30 days before July 1 of each year, the commission Secretary of State shall mail a copy of the form prescribed for compliance with full and public disclosure and a notice of the filing deadline to each person on the mailing list.~~

(c) ~~Not later than 30 days after July 1 of each year, the commission Secretary of State shall determine which persons on the mailing list have failed to file full and public disclosure and shall send delinquency notices by certified mail to such persons. Each notice must shall state that a grace period is in effect until September 1 of the current year and that, if the statement is not filed by September 1 of the current year, a \$25 fine for each day late will be imposed, up to a maximum penalty of \$1,500; and that, if upon the filing of a sworn complaint the commission finds that the person has failed to timely file the statement within 60 days after September 1 of the current year, such person will also be subject to the penalties provided in s. 112.317 the Secretary of State is required by law to notify the Commission on Ethics of the delinquency.~~

(d) ~~Statements must be filed not later than 5 p.m. of the due date. However, any statement that is postmarked by the United States Postal Service by midnight of the due date is deemed to have been filed in a timely manner, and a certificate of mailing obtained from and dated by the United States Postal Service at the time of the mailing, or a receipt from an established courier company which bears a date on or before the due date, constitutes proof of mailing in a timely manner.~~

(d) ~~Not later than 30 days following September 1 of each year, the Secretary of State shall certify to the Commission on Ethics a list of the names and addresses of and the offices held by all persons on the mailing list who have failed to timely file full and public disclosure. The certification shall be on a form prescribed by the commission and shall indicate whether the Secretary of State has provided the disclosure forms and notice as required by this section to all persons named on the delinquency list.~~

(e) ~~Any person who is required to file full and public disclosure of financial interests and whose name is on the commission's mailing list but who fails to timely file is assessed a fine of \$25 per day for each day late up to a maximum of \$1,500; however this \$1,500 limitation on automatic fines does not limit the civil penalty that may be imposed if the statement is filed more than 60 days after the deadline and a complaint is filed, as provided in s. 112.324. The commission must provide by rule the grounds for waiving the fine and the procedures by which each person whose name is on the mailing list and who is determined to have not filed in a timely manner will be notified of assessed fines and may appeal. The rule must provide for and make specific the following:~~

1. ~~The amount of the fine due is based upon the earliest of the following:~~

- a. When a statement is actually received by the office.
- b. When the statement is postmarked.
- c. When the certificate of mailing is dated.
- d. When the receipt from an established courier company is dated.

2. Upon receipt of the disclosure statement or upon accrual of the maximum penalty, whichever occurs first, the commission shall determine the amount of the fine which is due and shall notify the delinquent person. The notice must include an explanation of the appeal procedure under subparagraph 3. Such fine must be paid within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted, unless appeal is made to the commission pursuant to subparagraph 3. The moneys shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

3. Any reporting person may appeal or dispute a fine, based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and is entitled to a hearing before the commission, which may waive the fine in whole or in part for good cause shown. Any such request must be made within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted. In such a case, the reporting person must, within the 30-day period, notify the person designated to review the timeliness of reports in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the commission.

(f)(e) Any person subject to the annual filing of full and public disclosure under s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, or other state law, whose name is not on the commission's mailing list of persons required to file full and public disclosure is provided to the Secretary of State shall not be subject to the fines or penalties provided in this part be deemed delinquent for failure to file full and public disclosure in any year in which the omission occurred, but nevertheless is required to file the disclosure statement.

(g)(f) The notification requirements and fines of this subsection do not apply to candidates or to the first filing required of any person appointed to elective constitutional office or other position required to file full and public disclosure, unless the person's name is on the commission's notification list and the person received notification from the commission. The appointing official shall notify such newly appointed person of the obligation to file full and public disclosure by July 1. The notification requirements and fines of this subsection do not apply to the final filing provided for in subsection (5).

(h) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 120, any fine imposed under this subsection which is not waived by final order of the commission and which remains unpaid more than 60 days after the notice of payment due or more than 60 days after the commission renders a final order on the appeal must be submitted to the Department of Banking and Finance as a claim, debt, or other obligation owed to the state, and the department shall assign the collection of such fine to a collection agent as provided in s. 17.20.

(5) Each person required to file full and public disclosure of financial interests shall file a final disclosure statement within 60 days after leaving

his or her public position for the period between January 1 of the year in which the person leaves and the last day of office or employment, unless within the 60-day period the person takes another public position requiring financial disclosure under s. 8 of Art. II of the State Constitution, or is otherwise required to file full and public disclosure for the final disclosure period. The head of the agency of each person required to file full and public disclosure for the final disclosure period shall notify such persons of their obligation to file the final disclosure and may designate a person to be responsible for the notification requirements of this subsection.

(6) The commission shall adopt rules and forms specifying how a person who is required to file full and public disclosure of financial interests may amend his or her disclosure statement to report information that was not included on the form as originally filed. If the amendment is the subject of a complaint filed under this part, the commission and the proper disciplinary official or body shall consider as a mitigating factor when considering appropriate disciplinary action the fact that the amendment was filed before any complaint or other inquiry or proceeding, while recognizing that the public was deprived of access to information to which it was entitled.

Section 3. Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3145 Disclosure of financial interests and clients represented before agencies.—

(1) For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires, the term:

(a) “Local officer” means:

1. Every person who is elected to office in any political subdivision of the state, and every person who is appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term in such an elective office.

2. Any appointed member of any of the following boards, councils, commissions, authorities, or other bodies of any county, municipality, school district, independent special district, or other political subdivision of the state:

a. The governing body of the political subdivision, if appointed;

b. An expressway authority or transportation authority established by general law;

c. A community college or junior college district board of trustees;

d. A board having the power to enforce local code provisions;

e. A planning or zoning board, board of adjustment, board of appeals, or other board having the power to recommend, create, or modify land planning or zoning within the political subdivision, except for citizen advisory committees, technical coordinating committees, and such other groups who only have the power to make recommendations to planning or zoning boards;

f. A pension board or retirement board having the power to invest pension or retirement funds or the power to make a binding determination of one's entitlement to or amount of a pension or other retirement benefit; or

g. Any other appointed member of a local government board who is required to file a statement of financial interests by the appointing authority or the enabling legislation, ordinance, or resolution creating the board. a board; commission; authority, including any expressway authority or transportation authority established by general law; community college district board of trustees; or council of any political subdivision of the state, excluding any member of an advisory body. A governmental body with land-planning, zoning, or natural resources responsibilities shall not be considered an advisory body.

3. Any person holding one or more of the following positions: mayor; county or city manager; chief administrative employee of a county, municipality, or other political subdivision; county or municipal attorney; chief county or municipal building inspector; county or municipal water resources coordinator; county or municipal pollution control director; county or municipal environmental control director; county or municipal administrator, with power to grant or deny a land development permit; chief of police; fire chief; municipal clerk; district school superintendent; community college president; district medical examiner; or purchasing agent having the authority to make any purchase exceeding the threshold amount provided for in s. 287.017 for CATEGORY ONE, on behalf of any political subdivision of the state or any entity thereof.

(b) "Specified state employee" means:

1. Public counsel created by chapter 350, an assistant state attorney, an assistant public defender, a full-time state employee who serves as counsel or assistant counsel to any state agency, a judge of compensation claims, an administrative law judge, or a hearing officer.

2. Any person employed in the office of the Governor or in the office of any member of the Cabinet if that person is exempt from the Career Service System, except persons employed in clerical, secretarial, or similar positions.

3. Each appointed secretary, assistant secretary, deputy secretary, executive director, assistant executive director, or deputy executive director of each state department, commission, board, or council; unless otherwise provided, the division director, assistant division director, deputy director, bureau chief, and assistant bureau chief of any state department or division; or any person having the power normally conferred upon such persons, by whatever title.

4. The superintendent or institute director of a state mental health institute established for training and research in the mental health field or the superintendent or director of any major state institution or facility established for corrections, training, treatment, or rehabilitation.

5. Business managers, purchasing agents having the power to make any purchase exceeding the threshold amount provided for in s. 287.017 for CATEGORY ONE, finance and accounting directors, personnel officers, or grants coordinators for any state agency.

6. Any person, other than a legislative assistant exempted by the presiding officer of the house by which the legislative assistant is employed, who is employed in the legislative branch of government, except persons employed in maintenance, clerical, secretarial, or similar positions.

7. Each employee of the Commission on Ethics.

(c) "State officer" means:

1. Any elected public officer, excluding those elected to the United States Senate and House of Representatives, not covered elsewhere in this part and any person who is appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term in such an elective office.

2. An appointed member of each board, commission, authority, or council having statewide jurisdiction, excluding a member of an advisory body.

3. A member of the Board of Regents, the Chancellor and Vice Chancellors of the State University System, and the president of a state university.

(2)(a) A person seeking nomination or election to a state or local elective office shall file a statement of financial interests together with, and at the same time he or she files, qualifying papers.

(b) Each state or local officer and each specified state employee shall file a statement of financial interests no later than July 1 of each year. Each state officer, local officer, and specified state employee shall file a final statement of financial interests within 60 days after leaving his or her public position for the period between January 1 of the year in which the person leaves and the last day of office or employment, unless within the 60-day period the person takes another public position requiring financial disclosure under this section or s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or otherwise is required to file full and public disclosure or a statement of financial interests for the final disclosure period. Each state or local officer who is appointed and each specified state employee who is employed shall file a statement of financial interests within 30 days from the date of appointment or, in the case of a specified state employee, from the date on which the employment begins, except that any person whose appointment is subject to confirmation by the Senate shall file prior to confirmation hearings or within 30 days from the date of appointment, whichever comes first.

(c) ~~State officers, persons qualifying for a state office, and specified state employees shall file their statements of financial interests with the Commission on Ethics Secretary of State.~~ Local officers shall file their statements of financial interests with the supervisor of elections of the county in which they permanently reside. Local officers who do not permanently reside in any county in the state shall file their statements of financial interests with the supervisor of elections of the county in which their agency maintains its

headquarters. Persons seeking to qualify as candidates for local public office shall file their statements of financial interests with the officer before whom they qualify.

(3) The statement of financial interests for state officers, specified state employees, local officers, and persons seeking to qualify as candidates for state or local office shall be filed even if the reporting person holds no financial interests requiring disclosure, in which case the statement shall be marked “not applicable.” Otherwise, the statement of financial interests shall include, at the filer’s option, either:

(a)1. All sources of income in excess of 5 percent of the gross income received during the disclosure period by the person in his or her own name or by any other person for his or her use or benefit, excluding public salary. However, this shall not be construed to require disclosure of a business partner’s sources of income. The person reporting shall list such sources in descending order of value with the largest source first;:-

2.(b) All sources of income to a business entity in excess of 10 percent of the gross income of a business entity in which the reporting person held a material interest and from which he or she received an amount which was in excess of 10 percent of his or her gross income during the disclosure period and which exceeds \$1,500. The period for computing the gross income of the business entity is the fiscal year of the business entity which ended on, or immediately prior to, the end of the disclosure period of the person reporting;:-

3.(c) The location or description of real property in this state, except for residences and vacation homes, owned directly or indirectly by the person reporting, when such person owns in excess of 5 percent of the value of such real property, and a general description of any intangible personal property worth in excess of 10 percent of such person’s total assets. For the purposes of this paragraph, indirect ownership does not include ownership by a spouse or minor child; and:-

4.(d) Every individual liability that which in sum equals more than the reporting person’s net worth; or:-

(b)1. All sources of gross income in excess of \$2,500 received during the disclosure period by the person in his or her own name or by any other person for his or her use or benefit, excluding public salary. However, this shall not be construed to require disclosure of a business partner’s sources of income. The person reporting shall list such sources in descending order of value with the largest source first;

2. All sources of income to a business entity in excess of 10 percent of the gross income of a business entity in which the reporting person held a material interest and from which he or she received gross income exceeding \$5,000 during the disclosure period. The period for computing the gross income of the business entity is the fiscal year of the business entity which ended on, or immediately prior to, the end of the disclosure period of the person reporting;

3. The location or description of real property in this state, except for residence and vacation homes, owned directly or indirectly by the person reporting, when such person owns in excess of 5 percent of the value of such real property, and a general description of any intangible personal property worth in excess of \$10,000. For the purpose of this paragraph, indirect ownership does not include ownership by a spouse or minor child; and

4. Every liability in excess of \$10,000.

(4) Each elected constitutional officer, state officer, local officer, and specified state employee shall file a quarterly report of the names of clients represented for a fee or commission, except for appearances in ministerial matters, before agencies at his or her level of government. For the purposes of this part, agencies of government shall be classified as state-level agencies or agencies below state level. Each local officer shall file such report with the supervisor of elections of the county in which the officer is principally employed or is a resident. Each state officer, elected constitutional officer, and specified state employee shall file such report with the commission Secretary of State. The report shall be filed only when a reportable representation is made during the calendar quarter and shall be filed no later than the last day of each calendar quarter, for the previous calendar 15 days after the last day of the quarter. Representation before any agency shall be deemed to include representation by such officer or specified state employee or by any partner or associate of the professional firm of which he or she is a member and of which he or she has actual knowledge. For the purposes of this subsection, the term “representation before any agency” does not include appearances before any court or Chief Judges of Compensation Claims or judges of compensation claims or representations on behalf of one’s agency in one’s official capacity. Such term does not include the preparation and filing of forms and applications merely for the purpose of obtaining or transferring a license based on a quota or a franchise of such agency or a license or operation permit to engage in a profession, business, or occupation, so long as the issuance or granting of such license, permit, or transfer does not require substantial discretion, a variance, a special consideration, or a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

(5) Each elected constitutional officer and each candidate for such office, any other public officer required pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution to file a full and public disclosure of his or her financial interests, and each state officer, local officer, specified state employee, and candidate for elective public office who is or was during the disclosure period an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or agent, other than a resident agent solely for service of process, of, or owns or owned during the disclosure period a material interest in, any business entity which is granted a privilege to operate in this state shall disclose such facts as a part of the disclosure form filed pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or this section, as applicable. The statement shall give the name, address, and principal business activity of the business entity and shall state the position held with such business entity or the fact that a material interest is owned and the nature of that interest.

(6) Forms for compliance with the disclosure requirements of this section and a current list of persons subject to disclosure shall be created ~~provided~~

by the commission ~~on Ethics to the Secretary of State~~ and provided to each supervisor of elections. The commission and each supervisor of elections, who shall give notice of disclosure deadlines and delinquencies and distribute forms in the following manner:

(a)1. Not later than May 1 of each year, the ~~commission on Ethics~~ shall prepare a current list of the names and addresses of, and the offices or positions held by, every state officer, local officer, and specified employee. In compiling the list, the commission shall be assisted by each unit of government in providing, at the request of the commission, the name, address, and name of agency of, and the office or position held by, each state officer, local officer, or specified state employee within the respective unit of government.

2. Not later than May 15 of each year, the ~~commission shall provide the Secretary of State with a current mailing list of all state officers and specified employees and~~ shall provide each supervisor of elections with a current mailing list of all local officers required to file with such supervisor of elections.

(b) Not later than 30 days before July 1 of each year, the ~~commission Secretary of State~~ and each supervisor of elections, as appropriate, shall mail a copy of the form prescribed for compliance with subsection (3) and a notice of all applicable disclosure forms and filing deadlines to each person required to file a statement of financial interests.

(c) Not later than 30 days after July 1 of each year, the ~~commission Secretary of State~~ and each supervisor of elections shall determine which persons required to file a statement of financial interests in their respective offices have failed to do so and shall send delinquency notices by certified mail to such persons. Each notice shall state that a grace period is in effect until September 1 of the current year; that no investigative or disciplinary action based upon the delinquency will be taken by the agency head or ~~commission on Ethics~~ if the statement is filed by September 1 of the current year; that, if the statement is not filed by September 1 of the current year, a fine of \$25 for each day late will be imposed, up to a maximum penalty of \$1,500; for notices sent by a supervisor of elections, that he or she is required by law to notify the commission on Ethics of the delinquency; and that, if upon the filing of a sworn complaint the commission finds that the person has failed to timely file the statement within 60 days after by September 1 of the current year, such person will also shall be subject to the penalties provided in s. 112.317.

(d) No later than November 15 of each year ~~Not later than 30 days following September 1 of each year, the Secretary of State and the supervisor of elections in each county shall certify to the commission on Ethics a list of the names and addresses of, and the offices or positions held by, all persons who have failed to timely file the required statements of financial interests. The certification must include the earliest of the dates described in subparagraph (f)1.~~ The certification shall be on a form prescribed by the commission and shall indicate whether the supervisor of elections ~~respective certifying official~~ has provided the disclosure forms and notice as required by this subsection to all persons named on the delinquency list.

(e) Statements must be filed not later than 5 p.m. of the due date. However, any statement that is postmarked by the United States Postal Service by midnight of the due date is deemed to have been filed in a timely manner, and a certificate of mailing obtained from and dated by the United States Postal Service at the time of the mailing, or a receipt from an established courier company which bears a date on or before the due date, constitutes proof of mailing in a timely manner.

(f) Any person who is required to file a statement of financial interests and whose name is on the commission's mailing list but who fails to timely file is assessed a fine of \$25 per day for each day late up to a maximum of \$1,500; however, this \$1,500 limitation on automatic fines does not limit the civil penalty that may be imposed if the statement is filed more than 60 days after the deadline and a complaint is filed, as provided in s. 112.324. The commission must provide by rule the grounds for waiving the fine and procedures by which each person whose name is on the mailing list and who is determined to have not filed in a timely manner will be notified of assessed fines and may appeal. The rule must provide for and make specific the following:

1. The amount of the fine due is based upon the earliest of the following:
  - a. When a statement is actually received by the office.
  - b. When the statement is postmarked.
  - c. When the certificate of mailing is dated.
  - d. When the receipt from an established courier company is dated.

2. For a specified state employee or a state officer, upon receipt of the disclosure statement by the commission or upon accrual of the maximum penalty, whichever occurs first, and for a local officer upon receipt by the commission of the certification from the local officer's supervisor of elections pursuant to paragraph (d), the commission shall determine the amount of the fine which is due and shall notify the delinquent person. The notice must include an explanation of the appeal procedure under subparagraph 3. The fine must be paid within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted, unless appeal is made to the commission pursuant to subparagraph 3. The moneys are to be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

3. Any reporting person may appeal or dispute a fine, based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and is entitled to a hearing before the commission, which may waive the fine in whole or in part for good cause shown. Any such request must be made within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted. In such a case, the reporting person must, within the 30-day period, notify the person designated to review the timeliness of reports in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the commission.

(g)(e) Any state officer, local officer, or specified employee whose name is not on the mailing list of persons required to file an annual statement of financial interests provided to the Secretary of State or supervisor of elec-

tions is not subject to the penalties provided in s. 112.317 or the fine provided in this section for failure to timely file a statement of financial interests in any year in which the omission occurred, but nevertheless is required to file the disclosure statement.

(h)(f) The notification requirements and fines of this subsection do not apply to candidates or to the first or final filing required of any state officer, specified employee, or local officer as provided in paragraph (2)(b).

(i) Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 120, any fine imposed under this subsection which is not waived by final order of the commission and which remains unpaid more than 60 days after the notice of payment due or more than 60 days after the commission renders a final order on the appeal must be submitted to the Department of Banking and Finance as a claim, debt, or other obligation owed to the state, and the department shall assign the collection of such a fine to a collection agent as provided in s. 17.20.

(7)(a) The appointing official or body shall notify each newly appointed local officer, state officer, or specified state employee, not later than the date of appointment, of the officer's or employee's duty to comply with the disclosure requirements of this section. The agency head of each employing agency shall notify each newly employed local officer or specified state employee, not later than the day of employment, of the officer's or employee's duty to comply with the disclosure requirements of this section. The appointing official or body or employing agency head may designate a person to be responsible for the notification requirements of this paragraph section.

(b) The agency head of the agency of each local officer, state officer, or specified state employee who is required to file a statement of financial interests for the final disclosure period shall notify such persons of their obligation to file the final disclosure and may designate a person to be responsible for the notification requirements of this paragraph.

(8) A public officer who has filed a disclosure for any calendar or fiscal year shall not be required to file a second disclosure for the same year or any part thereof, notwithstanding any requirement of this act, except that any public officer who qualifies as a candidate for public office shall file a copy of the disclosure with the officer before whom he or she qualifies as a candidate at the time of qualification.

(9) The commission shall adopt rules and forms specifying how a state officer, local officer, or specified state employee may amend his or her statement of financial interests to report information that was not included on the form as originally filed. If the amendment is the subject of a complaint filed under this part, the commission and the proper disciplinary official or body shall consider as a mitigating factor when considering appropriate disciplinary action the fact that the amendment was filed before any complaint or other inquiry or proceeding, while recognizing that the public was deprived of access to information to which it was entitled.

Section 4. Section 112.3148, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3148 Reporting and prohibited receipt of gifts by individuals filing full or limited public disclosure of financial interests and by procurement employees.—

(1) The provisions of this section do not apply to gifts solicited or accepted by a reporting individual or procurement employee from a relative.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) “Immediate family” means any parent, spouse, child, or sibling.

(b)1. “Lobbyist” means any natural person who, for compensation, seeks, or sought during the preceding 12 months, to influence the governmental decisionmaking of a reporting individual or procurement employee or his or her agency or seeks, or sought during the preceding 12 months, to encourage the passage, defeat, or modification of any proposal or recommendation by the reporting individual or procurement employee or his or her agency.

2. With respect to an agency that has established by rule, ordinance, or law a registration process for persons seeking to influence decisionmaking or to encourage the passage, defeat, or modification of any proposal or recommendation by such agency or an employee or official of the agency, the term “lobbyist” includes only a person who is required to be registered as a lobbyist in accordance with such rule, ordinance, or law or who was during the preceding 12 months required to be registered as a lobbyist in accordance with such rule, ordinance, or law. At a minimum, such a registration system must require the registration of, or must designate, persons as “lobbyists” who engage in the same activities as require registration to lobby the Legislature pursuant to s. 11.045.

(c) “Person” includes individuals, firms, associations, joint ventures, partnerships, estates, trusts, business trusts, syndicates, fiduciaries, corporations, and all other groups or combinations.

(d) “Reporting individual” means any individual, including a candidate upon qualifying, who is required by law, pursuant to s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3145, to file full or limited public disclosure of his or her financial interests or any individual who has been elected to, but has yet to officially assume the responsibilities of, public office. For purposes of implementing this section, the “agency” of a reporting individual who is not an officer or employee in public service is the agency to which the candidate seeks election, or in the case of an individual elected to but yet to formally take office, the agency in which the individual has been elected to serve.

(e) “Procurement employee” means any employee of an officer, department, board, commission, or council of the executive branch or judicial branch of state government who participates through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, or auditing or in any other advisory capacity in the procurement of contractual services or commodities as defined in s. 287.012, if the cost of such services or commodities exceeds \$1,000 in any year.

(3) A reporting individual or procurement employee is prohibited from soliciting any gift from a political committee or committee of continuous existence, as defined in s. 106.011, or from a lobbyist who lobbies the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency, or the partner, firm, employer, or principal of such lobbyist, where such gift is for the personal benefit of the reporting individual or procurement employee, another reporting individual or procurement employee, or any member of the immediate family of a reporting individual or procurement employee.

(4) A reporting individual or procurement employee or any other person on his or her behalf is prohibited from knowingly accepting, directly or indirectly, a gift from a political committee or committee of continuous existence, as defined in s. 106.011, or from a lobbyist who lobbies the reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency, or directly or indirectly on behalf of the partner, firm, employer, or principal of a lobbyist, if he or she knows or reasonably believes that the gift has a value in excess of \$100; however, such a gift may be accepted by such person on behalf of a governmental entity or a charitable organization. If the gift is accepted on behalf of a governmental entity or charitable organization, the person receiving the gift shall not maintain custody of the gift for any period of time beyond that reasonably necessary to arrange for the transfer of custody and ownership of the gift.

(5)(a) A political committee or a committee of continuous existence, as defined in s. 106.011; a lobbyist who lobbies a reporting individual's or procurement employee's agency; the partner, firm, employer, or principal of a lobbyist; or another on behalf of the lobbyist or partner, firm, principal, or employer of the lobbyist is prohibited from giving, either directly or indirectly, a gift that has a value in excess of \$100 to the reporting individual or procurement employee or any other person on his or her behalf; however, such person may give a gift having a value in excess of \$100 to a reporting individual or procurement employee if the gift is intended to be transferred to a governmental entity or a charitable organization.

(b) However, a person who is regulated by this subsection, who is not regulated by subsection (6), and who makes, or directs another to make, an individual gift having a value in excess of \$25, but not in excess of \$100, other than a gift which the donor knows will be accepted on behalf of a governmental entity or charitable organization, must file a report on the last day of each calendar quarter, for the previous calendar quarter in which a reportable gift is made. The report shall be filed with the Commission on Ethics Secretary of State, except with respect to gifts to reporting individuals of the legislative branch, in which case the report shall be filed with the Division of Legislative Information Services in the Office of Legislative Services. The report must contain a description of each gift, the monetary value thereof, the name and address of the person making such gift, the name and address of the recipient of the gift, and the date such gift is given. In addition, when a gift is made which requires the filing of a report under this subsection, the donor must notify the intended recipient at the time the gift is made that the donor, or another on his or her behalf, will report the gift under this subsection. Under this paragraph, a gift need not be reported by more than one person or entity.

(6)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (5), an entity of the legislative or judicial branch, a department or commission of the executive branch, a water management district created pursuant to s. 373.069, Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority, the Technological Research and Development Authority, a county, a municipality, an airport authority, or a school board may give, either directly or indirectly, a gift having a value in excess of \$100 to any reporting individual or procurement employee if a public purpose can be shown for the gift; and a direct-support organization specifically authorized by law to support a governmental entity may give such a gift to a reporting individual or procurement employee who is an officer or employee of such governmental entity.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (4), a reporting individual or procurement employee may accept a gift having a value in excess of \$100 from an entity of the legislative or judicial branch, a department or commission of the executive branch, a water management district created pursuant to s. 373.069, Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority, the Technological Research and Development Authority, a county, a municipality, an airport authority, or a school board if a public purpose can be shown for the gift; and a reporting individual or procurement employee who is an officer or employee of a governmental entity supported by a direct-support organization specifically authorized by law to support such governmental entity may accept such a gift from such direct-support organization.

(c) No later than March 1 of each year, each governmental entity or direct-support organization specifically authorized by law to support a governmental entity which has given a gift to a reporting individual or procurement employee under paragraph (a) shall provide the reporting individual or procurement employee with a statement of each gift having a value in excess of \$100 given to such reporting individual or procurement employee by the governmental entity or direct-support organization during the preceding calendar year. Such report shall contain a description of each gift, the date on which the gift was given, and the value of the total gifts given by the governmental entity or direct-support organization to the reporting individual or procurement employee during the calendar year for which the report is made. A governmental entity may provide a single report to the reporting individual or procurement employee of gifts provided by the governmental entity and any direct-support organization specifically authorized by law to support such governmental entity.

(d) No later than July 1 of each year, each reporting individual or procurement employee shall file a statement listing each gift having a value in excess of \$100 received by the reporting individual or procurement employee, either directly or indirectly, from a governmental entity or a direct-support organization specifically authorized by law to support a governmental entity. The statement shall list the name of the person providing the gift, a description of the gift, the date or dates on which the gift was given, and the value of the total gifts given during the calendar year for which the report is made. The reporting individual or procurement employee shall attach to such statement any report received by him or her in accordance with paragraph (c), which report shall become a public record when filed with the statement of the reporting individual or procurement employee.

The reporting individual or procurement employee may explain any differences between the report of the reporting individual or procurement employee and the attached reports. The annual report filed by a reporting individual shall be filed with the financial disclosure statement required by either s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3145, as applicable to the reporting individual. The annual report filed by a procurement employee shall be filed with the Commission on Ethics Department of State.

(7)(a) The value of a gift provided to a reporting individual or procurement employee shall be determined using actual cost to the donor, less taxes and gratuities, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, and, with respect to personal services provided by the donor, the reasonable and customary charge regularly charged for such service in the community in which the service is provided shall be used. If additional expenses are required as a condition precedent to eligibility of the donor to purchase or provide a gift and such expenses are primarily for the benefit of the donor or are of a charitable nature, such expenses shall not be included in determining the value of the gift.

(b) Compensation provided by the donee to the donor, if provided within 90 days after receipt of the gift, shall be deducted from the value of the gift in determining the value of the gift.

(c) If the actual gift value attributable to individual participants at an event cannot be determined, the total costs shall be prorated among all invited persons, whether or not they are reporting individuals or procurement employees.

(d) Transportation shall be valued on a round-trip basis unless only one-way transportation is provided. Round-trip transportation expenses shall be considered a single gift. Transportation provided in a private conveyance shall be given the same value as transportation provided in a comparable commercial conveyance.

(e) Lodging provided on consecutive days shall be considered a single gift. Lodging in a private residence shall be valued at the per diem rate provided in s. 112.061(6)(a)1. less the meal allowance rate provided in s. 112.061(6)(b).

(f) Food and beverages which are not consumed at a single sitting or meal and which are provided on the same calendar day shall be considered a single gift, and the total value of all food and beverages provided on that date shall be considered the value of the gift. Food and beverage consumed at a single sitting or meal shall be considered a single gift and the value of the food and beverage provided at that sitting or meal shall be considered the value of the gift.

(g) Membership dues paid to the same organization during any 12-month period shall be considered a single gift.

(h) Entrance fees, admission fees, or tickets shall be valued on the face value of the ticket or fee, or on a daily or per event basis, whichever is greater.

(i) Except as otherwise specified in this section, a gift shall be valued on a per occurrence basis.

(j) The value of a gift provided to several individuals may be attributed on a pro rata basis among all of the individuals. If the gift is food, beverage, entertainment, or similar items, provided at a function for more than 10 people, the value of the gift to each individual shall be the total value of the items provided divided by the number of persons invited to the function, unless the items are purchased on a per person basis, in which case the value of the gift to each person is the per person cost.

(k) The value of a gift of an admission ticket shall not include that portion of the cost which represents a charitable contribution, if the gift is provided by the charitable organization.

(8)(a) Each reporting individual or procurement employee shall file a statement with the ~~Commission on Ethics~~ Secretary of State on the last day of each calendar quarter, for the previous calendar quarter, containing a list of gifts which he or she believes to be in excess of \$100 in value, if any, accepted by him or her, for which compensation was not provided by the donee to the donor within 90 days of receipt of the gift to reduce the value to \$100 or less, except the following:

1. Gifts from relatives.
2. Gifts prohibited by subsection (4) or s. 112.313(4).
3. Gifts otherwise required to be disclosed by this section.

(b) The statement shall include:

1. A description of the gift, the monetary value of the gift, the name and address of the person making the gift, and the dates thereof. If any of these facts, other than the gift description, are unknown or not applicable, the report shall so state.

2. A copy of any receipt for such gift provided to the reporting individual or procurement employee by the donor.

(c) The statement may include an explanation of any differences between the reporting individual's or procurement employee's statement and the receipt provided by the donor.

(d) The reporting individual's or procurement employee's statement shall be sworn to by such person as being a true, accurate, and total listing of all such gifts.

(e) If a reporting individual or procurement employee has not received any gifts described in paragraph (a) during a calendar quarter, he or she is not required to file a statement under this subsection for that calendar quarter.

(9) A person, other than a lobbyist regulated under s. 11.045, who violates the provisions of subsection (5) commits a noncriminal infraction, pun-

ishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 and by a prohibition on lobbying, or employing a lobbyist to lobby, before the agency of the reporting individual or procurement employee to which the gift was given in violation of subsection (5), for a period of not more than 24 months. The state attorney, or an agency, if otherwise authorized, may initiate an action to impose or recover a fine authorized under this section or to impose or enforce a limitation on lobbying provided in this section.

(10) A member of the Legislature may request an advisory opinion from the general counsel of the house of which he or she is a member as to the application of this section to a specific situation. The general counsel shall issue the opinion within 10 days after receiving the request. The member of the Legislature may reasonably rely on such opinion.

Section 5. Subsection (6) of section 112.3149, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3149 Solicitation and disclosure of honoraria.—

(6) A reporting individual or procurement employee who receives payment or provision of expenses related to any honorarium event from a person who is prohibited by subsection (4) from paying an honorarium to a reporting individual or procurement employee shall publicly disclose on an annual statement the name, address, and affiliation of the person paying or providing the expenses; the amount of the honorarium expenses; the date of the honorarium event; a description of the expenses paid or provided on each day of the honorarium event; and the total value of the expenses provided to the reporting individual or procurement employee in connection with the honorarium event. The annual statement of honorarium expenses shall be filed by July 1 of each year for such expenses received during the previous calendar year. The reporting individual or procurement employee shall attach to the annual statement a copy of each statement received by him or her in accordance with subsection (5) regarding honorarium expenses paid or provided during the calendar year for which the annual statement is filed. Such attached statement shall become a public record upon the filing of the annual report. The annual statement of a reporting individual shall be filed with the financial disclosure statement required by either s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3145, as applicable to the reporting individual. The annual statement of a procurement employee shall be filed with the Commission on Ethics Department of State.

Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 112.321, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.321 Membership, terms; travel expenses; staff.—

(1) The commission shall be composed of nine members. Five of these members shall be appointed by the Governor, no more than three of whom shall be from the same political party, subject to confirmation by the Senate. One member appointed by the Governor shall be a former city or county official and may be a former member of a local planning or zoning board which has only advisory duties. Two members shall be appointed by the

Speaker of the House of Representatives, and two members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate. Neither the Speaker of the House of Representatives nor the President of the Senate shall appoint more than one member from the same political party. Of the nine members of the Commission, no more than five members shall be from the same political party at any one time. No member may hold any public employment. All members shall serve 2-year terms. No member shall serve more than two full terms in succession. Any member of the commission may be removed for cause by majority vote of the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Section 7. Subsection (9) of section 112.322, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 8. Subsection (6) of section 440.442, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

440.442 Code of Judicial Conduct.—The Chief Judge, and judges of compensation claims shall observe and abide by the Code of Judicial Conduct as provided in this section. Any material violation of a provision of the Code of Judicial Conduct shall constitute either malfeasance or misfeasance in office and shall be grounds for suspension and removal of such Chief Judge, or judge of compensation claims by the Governor.

(6) FISCAL MATTERS OF JUDGES.—Fiscal matters of a judge should be conducted in a manner that will not give the appearance of influence or impropriety. A judge should regularly file public reports as required by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution, and should publicly report gifts.

(a) Compensation for quasi-judicial and extrajudicial services and reimbursement of expenses.—A judge may receive compensation and reimbursement of expenses for the quasi-judicial and extrajudicial activities permitted by this section, if the source of such payments does not give the appearance of influencing the judge in his or her judicial duties or otherwise give the impression of impropriety subject to the following restrictions:

1. Compensation: Compensation should not exceed a reasonable amount nor should it exceed what a person who is not a judge would receive for the same activity.

2. Expense reimbursement: Expense reimbursement should be limited to the actual cost of travel, food, and lodging reasonably incurred by the judge and, where appropriate to the occasion, to his or her spouse. Any payment in excess of such an amount is compensation.

(b) Public financial reporting.—

1. Income and assets: A judge shall file such public reports as may be required by law for all public officials to comply fully with the provisions of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution. The form for public financial disclosure shall be that recommended or adopted by the Florida Commission on Ethics for use by all public officials. The form shall be filed in the office of the Commission on Ethics ~~Secretary of State~~ on the date prescribed by law.

2. Gifts: A judge shall file a public report of all gifts which are required to be disclosed under Canon 5D(5)(h) and Canon 6B(2) s. 112 [~~Canon 5C(4)(e)~~] of the Code of Judicial Conduct. The report of gifts received in the preceding calendar year shall be filed in the office of the Commission on Ethics Secretary of State on or before July 1 of each year.

Section 9. Sections 839.08, 839.09, 839.091, and 839.10, Florida Statutes, are repealed.

Section 10. Section 112.3232, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

112.3232 Compelled testimony.—If any person called to give evidence in a commission proceeding shall refuse to give evidence because of a claim of possible self-incrimination, the commission, with the written authorization of the appropriate state attorney, may apply to the chief judge of the appropriate judicial circuit for a judicial grant of immunity ordering the testimony or other evidence of such person notwithstanding his or her objection, but in such case no testimony or other information compelled under the order, or any information directly or indirectly derived from such testimony or other information, may be used against the witness in any criminal proceeding.

Section 11. The provisions of this act requiring a person to file a final disclosure statement within 60 days after leaving his or her public position, including the notification requirements relating to final filings, apply to persons leaving office or employment on or after the date this act becomes a law.

Section 12. Section 112.3147, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3147 Forms.—

(1) All information required to be furnished by ss. 112.313, 112.3143, 112.3144, 112.3145, 112.3148, and 112.3149 and by s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution shall be on forms prescribed by the Commission on Ethics.

(2)(a) With respect to reporting assets valued in excess of \$1,000 on forms prescribed pursuant to s. 112.3144 which the reporting individual holds jointly with another person, the amount reported shall be based on the reporting individual's legal percentage of ownership in the property, except that assets held jointly with the reporting individual's spouse shall be reported at 100 percent of the value of the asset. For purposes of this subsection, a reporting individual is deemed to own an interest in a partnership which corresponds to the reporting individual's interest in the capital or equity of the partnership.

(2)(b)1. With respect to reporting liabilities valued in excess of \$1,000 on forms prescribed pursuant to s. 112.3144 for which the reporting individual is jointly and severally liable, the amount reported shall be based upon the reporting individual's percentage of liability rather than the total amount of the liability, except, a joint and several liability with the reporting individual's spouse for a debt which relates to property owned by both as tenants by the entirety shall be reported at 100 percent of the total amount owed.

2. A separate section of the form shall be created to provide for the reporting of the amounts of joint and several liability of the reporting individual not otherwise reported in paragraph (a).

Section 13. The Commission on Ethics is directed to develop a plan to implement a course of study regarding the requirements of the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees in chapter 119, the public records law of chapter 119, the public meetings law in chapter 286 and chapter 838, for each elected public officer and each person appointed to hold elective public office. The Commission is further directed to submit to the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, by the 2001 Legislative Session, a report outlining the implementation of a course of study which shall include the cost estimates for developing, implementing and sustaining the course of study set forth herein.

Section 14. This act shall take effect January 1, 2001.

Approved by the Governor June 7, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 7, 2000.