

## **GIFTS**

The following summary is intended to provide a brief overview and guidance as to the acceptance of gifts by members and staff of the House of Representatives.

### 1. Employers of Lobbyists and Lobbyists

As a general rule, neither you nor your immediately family (spouse or minor child living in the household) may solicit or accept a gift (anything of value) from an employer of a lobbyist or a lobbyist. Statutory exceptions allow certain gifts to be offered and accepted including participation in certain in-state events. If in doubt, please consult House Ethics Counsel; Tenn. Code Ann. Title 3, Chapter 6, Part 3; or the Tennessee Ethics Commission.

### 2. Vendors and Contractors

Gifts from vendors and contractors are prohibited when the vendor or contractor is actively engaged in selling or marketing to an official in the legislative branch “whose duty it is to vote for, let out, overlook, or in any manner superintend any work or any contract so marketed or sold”. See, Tenn. Code Ann. § 3-6-301(15)(C). Like employers of lobbyists and lobbyists, statutory exceptions allow certain gifts to be offered and accepted when the vendor or contractor is otherwise prohibited. At other times, sound judgment should be exercised prior to accepting a gift from a vendor or contractor. If in doubt, please consult House Ethics Counsel; Tenn. Code Ann. Title 3, Chapter 6, Part 3; or the Tennessee Ethics Commission.

### 3. Gifts from Others

Sound judgement should be exercised prior to accepting a gift from a person not otherwise prohibited from offering a gift under state law. The acceptance of a gift from a person seeking assistance should normally be avoided. If in doubt, please consult House Ethics Counsel.