

Political Reform Act

Conflict of Interest – Basic Provisions

General Prohibition

1. Rule (Government Code 87100)

87100. No public official at any level of state or local government shall make, participate in making or in any way use or attempt to use his official position to influence a governmental decision in which he knows or has reason to know he has a financial interest.

2. Financial Interest Defined (Government Code 87103)

87103. A public official has a financial interest in a decision within the meaning of Section 87100 if it is reasonably foreseeable that the decision will have material financial effect, distinguishable from its effect on the public generally, on the official, a member of his or her immediate family, or on any of the following.

(a) Any business entity in which the public official has a direct or indirect investment worth one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more.

(b) Any real property in which the public official has a direct or indirect interest worth one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more.

(c) Any source of income, other than gifts and other than loans by a commercial lending institution in the regular course of business on terms available to the public without regard to official status, aggregating two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or more in value provided to, received by or promised to the public official within 12 months prior to the time when the decision is made.

(d) Any business entity in which the public official is a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or holds any position of management.

(e) Any donor of, or any intermediary or agent for a donor of, a gift or gifts aggregating two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or more in value provided to, received by, or promised to the public official within 12 months prior to the time when the decision is made. The amount of the value of gifts specified by this subdivision shall be adjusted biennially by the commission to equal the same amount determined by the commission pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 89503.

For purposes of this section, indirect investment or interest means any investment or interest owned by the spouse or dependent child of a public official, by an agent on behalf of a public official, or by a business entity or trust in which the official, the

official's agents, spouse, and dependent children own directly, indirectly, or beneficially a 10-percent interest or greater.

Conflict of Interest Code

1. Requirement of Code (Government Code 87300)

87300. Every agency shall adopt and promulgate a Conflict of Interest Code pursuant to the provisions of this article. A Conflict of Interest Code shall have the force of law and any violation of a Conflict of Interest Code by a designated employee shall be deemed a violation of this chapter.

2. Required Provisions (Government Code 87301)

87302. Each Conflict of Interest Code shall contain the following provisions:

(a) Specific enumeration of the positions within the agency, other than those specified in Section 87200, which involve the making or participation in the making of decisions which may foresee ably have a material effect on any financial interest and for each such property, and sources of income which are reportable. An investment, business position, interest in real property, or source on income shall be made reportable by the Conflict of Interest Code if the business entity in which the investment or business position is held, the interest in real property, or the income or source of income may foresee ably be affect materially by any decision made or participated in by the designated employee by virtue of his or her position.

(b) Requirements that each designated employee, other than those specified in Section 87200, file statements at times and under circumstances described in this section, disclosing reportable investments, business positions, interest in real property and income. The information disclosed with respect to reportable investments, interest in real property, and income shall be the same as the information required by Sections 87206 and 87207. The first statement filed under a Conflict of Interest Code by a designated employee shall disclose any reportable investments, business positions, interests in real property, and income. An initial statement shall be filed by each designated employee within 30 days after the effective date of the Conflict of Interest Code, disclosing investments, business positions, and interests in real property held on the effective date of the Conflict of Interest Code and income received during the 12 months before the effective date of the Conflict of Interest Code. Thereafter, each new designated employee shall file a statement within 30 days after assuming office, or if subject to State Senate confirmation, 30 days after being appointed or nominated, disclosing investments, business positions, and interests in real property held on, and income received during the 12 months before, the date of assuming office or the date of being appointed or nominated, respectively. Each designated employee shall file an annual statement, at the time specified in the Conflict of Interest Code, disclosing reportable investments, business positions, interest in real property and income held or received at any time during the previous calendar year or sine the date the designated employee took office if during the calendar year. Every designated employee who leaves office shall file, within 30 days of leaving office, a statement disclosing reportable investments, business positions, interests in real property, and income held or received at any time during the

period between the closing date of the last statement required to be filed and the date of leaving office.

(c) Specific provisions setting forth any circumstances under which designated employees or categories of designated employees must disqualify themselves from making, participating in the making, or using their official position to influence the making of any decision. Disqualification shall be required by the Conflict of Interest Code when the designated employee has a financial interest as defined in Section 87103, which it is reasonably foreseeable may be affected materially by the decision. No designated employee shall be required to disqualify himself or herself with respect to any matter which could not legally be acted upon or decided without his or her participation.

(d) For any position enumerated pursuant to subdivision (a), an individual who resigned the position within 12 months following initial appointment or within 30 days of the date of a notice mailed by the filing officer of the individual's filing obligation, whichever is earlier, is not deemed to assume or leave office, provided that during the period between appointment and resignation, the individual does not make, participate in making, or use the position to influence any decision of the agency or receive, or become entitled to receive, any form of payment by virtue of being appointed to the position. Within 30 days of the date of a notice mailed by the filing officer, the individual shall do both of the following:

(1) File a written resignation with the appointing power.

(2) File a written statement with the filing officer on a form prescribed by the commission and signed under the penalty of perjury stating that the individual, during the period between appointment and resignation, did not make, participate in the making, or use the position to influence any decision of the agency or receive, or become entitled to receive, any form of payment by virtue of being appointed to the position.

3. Investment in Business Entity/Interest in Real Property (Government Code 87206)

87206. When an investment or an interest in real property is required to be disclosed under this article, the statement shall contain:

(a) A statement of the nature of the investment or interest.

(b) The name of the business entity in which each investment is held, and a general description of the business activity in which the business entity is engaged.

(c) The address or other precise location of the real property.

(d) A statement whether the fair market value of the investment or interest in real property equals or exceeds one thousand dollars (\$1,000) but does not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), whether it exceeds ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) but does not exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), or whether it exceeds one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

(e) In the case of a statement filed under Sections 87203 or 87204, if the investment or interest in real property was partially or wholly acquired or disposed of during the period covered by the statement, the date of acquisition or disposal.

(f) For purposes of disclosure under this article, “interest in real property” does not include the principal residence of the filer or any other property which the filer utilizes exclusively as the personal residence of the filer.

4. Income from Source (Government Code 87207)

87207. (a) When income is required to be reported under this article, the statement shall contain, except as provided in subdivision (b):

(1) The name and address of each source of income aggregating two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or more in value, or fifty dollars (\$50) or more in value if the income was a gift, and a general description of the business activity, if any, or each source.

(2) A statement whether the aggregate value of income from each source, or in the case of a loan, the highest amount owed to each source, was at least two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) but did not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), whether it was in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) but was not greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or whether it was greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

(3) A description of the consideration, if any, for which the income was received.

(4) In the case of a gift, the amount and the date on which the gift was received.

(5) In the case of a loan, the annual interest rate, the security, if any, given for the loan, and the term of the loan.

(b) When the filer’s pro rata share of income to a business entity, including income to a sole proprietorship, is required to be reported under this article, the statement shall contain:

(1) The name, address, and a general description of the business activity of the business entity.

(2) The name of every person from whom the business entity received payments if the filer’s prorate share of gross receipts from that person was equal to or greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) during a calendar year.

(c) When a payment, including an advance or reimbursement, for travel is required to be reported pursuant to this section, it may be reported on a separate travel reimbursement schedule which shall be included in the filer’s statement of economic interest. A filer who chooses not to use the travel schedule shall disclose payments for travel as a gift, unless it is clear from all surrounding circumstances that the services provided were equal to or greater in value than the payments for the travel, in which case the travel may be reported as income.