

Committee of Conference Report on SB 343, relative to legislative ethics guidelines.

Recommendation:

That the Senate recede from its position of nonconcurrence with the House amendment, and concur with the House amendment, and

That the Senate and House adopt the following new amendment to the bill as amended by the House, and pass the bill as so amended:

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Legislative Ethics Committee; Definitions; Rule. Amend RSA 14-B:1 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

III-a. "Rule" means any rule adopted pursuant to this chapter and shall not include any rule of proceeding adopted by the house of representatives or the senate.

2 Definitions; Expense Reimbursement. Amend RSA 14-C:2, III to read as follows:

III. "Expense reimbursement" shall mean any price, charge, fee, expense, or other cost which is waived, forgiven, reduced, prepaid, or reimbursed in any form for the reasonable expenses of attendance, registration, travel, meals, or lodging related to a bona fide conference, meeting, seminar, or educational, cultural, or informational program, or an event to which the recipient is invited in his or her official capacity as a representative of the senate or the house of representatives of which the recipient is a member. ***"Expense reimbursement" shall not include any expense reimbursement made by the general court to a legislator, legislative officer, or legislative employee.***

3 Gifts, Honorariums, and Reimbursements. Amend RSA 14-C:2, IV(a)(2) to read as follows:

(2) Any other tangible thing, intangible thing, service, or the use thereof having an individual value of greater than \$50. ***For purposes of this section, "service" shall not include acceptance of legal services on an individual basis when the legislator enters into an attorney-client relationship with the attorney for the purposes of addressing a complaint or petition if the attorney is not a registered lobbyist.***

4 New Subparagraph; Definitions; Gift; Exclusions. Amend RSA 14-C:2, IV(b) by inserting after subparagraph (13) the following new subparagraph:

(14) Any expense reimbursements made by the general court to a legislator, legislative officer, or legislative employee.

5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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The signatures below attest to the authenticity of this Report on SB 343, relative to legislative ethics guidelines.

Conferees on the Part of the Senate

Conferees on the Part of the House

Sen. Carson, Dist. 14

Rep. Packard, Rock. 5

Sen. Avard, Dist. 12

Rep. Hinch, Hills. 21

Sen. Soucy, Dist. 18

Rep. Hoelzel, Rock. 3

Rep. Shurtleff, Merr. 11