
By: **Delegates Campbell and Stocksdale**
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2001
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ethics - Prohibition on Acceptance of Gifts by Legislators - Repeal of**
3 **Exception**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing an exception to the general gift acceptance prohibition
5 that allows legislators to accept food or beverages received at the time and
6 geographic location of a meeting of a legislative organization for which the
7 member's presiding officer has approved the member's attendance at State
8 expense; and generally relating to acceptance of gifts by members of the General
9 Assembly.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - State Government
12 Section 15-505(c)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article - State Government**

18 15-505.

19 (c) (1) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, an official or employee
20 may accept a gift specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection unless:

21 (i) the gift would tend to impair the impartiality and independent
22 judgment of the official or employee; or

23 (ii) as to a gift of significant value:

24 1. the gift would give the appearance of impairing the
25 impartiality and independent judgment of the official or employee; or

1 (viii) tickets or free admission extended to an elected constitutional
2 officer from the person sponsoring or conducting the event, as a courtesy or ceremony
3 to the office, to attend a charitable, cultural, or political event;

4 (ix) a specific gift or class of gifts exempted from subsection (b) of
5 this section by the Ethics Commission upon a written finding that:

6 1. acceptance of the gift or class of gifts would not be
7 detrimental to the impartial conduct of government; and

8 2. the gift is purely personal and private in nature;

9 (x) a gift from:

10 1. an individual related to the official or employee by blood or
11 marriage; or

12 2. any other individual who is a member of the household of
13 the official or employee; or

14 (xi) to the extent provided in subsection (d) of this section,
15 honoraria.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 2001.