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HOUSE BILL NO. 559

Offered January 10, 2018

Prefiled January 8, 2018

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3104 and 30-103 of the Code of Virginia, relating to State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act and General Assembly Conflicts of Interests Act; post-service restrictions.

Patrons—Roem, Rasoul and Carter

Referred to Committee on Rules

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 2.2-3104 and 30-103 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 2.2-3104. Prohibited conduct for certain officers and employees of state government.**

For ~~one year~~ *three years* after the termination of public employment or service, no state officer or employee shall, before *the General Assembly or* the agency of which he was an officer or employee, represent a client or act in a representative capacity on behalf of any person or group, for compensation, on matters related to legislation, executive orders, or regulations promulgated by the agency of which he was an officer or employee. This prohibition shall be in addition to the prohibitions contained in § 2.2-3103.

For the purposes of this section, "state officer or employee" ~~shall mean~~ *means* (i) the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and officers appointed by the Governor, whether confirmation by the General Assembly or by either house thereof is required or not, who are regularly employed on a full-time salaried basis; those officers and employees of executive branch agencies who report directly to the agency head; and those at the level immediately below those who report directly to the agency head and are at a payband 6 or higher and (ii) the officers and professional employees of the legislative branch designated by the joint rules committee of the General Assembly. For the purposes of this section, the General Assembly and the legislative branch agencies shall be deemed one agency.

To the extent *that* this prohibition applies to the Governor's Secretaries, "agency" means all agencies assigned to the Secretary by law or by executive order of the Governor.

Any person subject to the provisions of this section may apply to the Council or Attorney General, as provided in § 2.2-3121 or 2.2-3126, for an advisory opinion as to the application of the restriction imposed by this section on any post-public employment position or opportunity.

**§ 30-103. Prohibited conduct.**

No legislator shall:

1. Solicit or accept money or other thing of value for services performed within the scope of his official duties, except the compensation, expenses or other remuneration paid to him by the General Assembly. This prohibition shall not apply to the acceptance of special benefits which may be authorized by law;

2. Offer or accept any money or other thing of value for or in consideration of obtaining employment, appointment, or promotion of any person with any governmental or advisory agency;

3. Offer or accept any money or other thing of value for or in consideration of the use of his public position to obtain a contract for any person or business with any governmental or advisory agency;

4. Use for his own economic benefit or that of another party confidential information which he has acquired by reason of his public position and which is not available to the public;

5. Accept any money, loan, gift, favor, service, or business or professional opportunity that reasonably tends to influence him in the performance of his official duties. This subdivision shall not apply to any political contribution actually used for political campaign or constituent service purposes and reported as required by Chapter 9.3 (§ 24.2-945 et seq.) of Title 24.2;

6. Accept any business or professional opportunity when he knows that there is a reasonable likelihood that the opportunity is being afforded him to influence him in the performance of his official duties;

7. During the ~~one year~~ *three years* after the termination of his service as a legislator, represent a client or act in a representative capacity on behalf of any person or group, for compensation, on any matter before the General Assembly or any agency of the legislative branch of government. The prohibitions of this subdivision shall apply only to persons engaged in activities that would require registration as a lobbyist under § 2.2-422. Any person subject to the provisions of this subdivision may apply to the Attorney General, as provided in § 30-122, for an advisory opinion as to the application of the restriction imposed by this subdivision on any post-public employment position or opportunity;

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59 8. Accept any honoraria for any appearance, speech, or article in which the legislator provides  
60 expertise or opinions related to the performance of his official duties. The term "honoraria" shall not  
61 include any payment for or reimbursement to such person for his actual travel, lodging, or subsistence  
62 expenses incurred in connection with such appearance, speech, or article or in the alternative a payment  
63 of money or anything of value not in excess of the per diem deduction allowable under § 162 of the  
64 Internal Revenue Code, as amended from time to time;

65 9. Accept appointment to serve on a body or board of any corporation, company or other legal  
66 entity, vested with the management of the corporation, company or entity, and on which two other  
67 members of the General Assembly already serve, which is operated for profit and regulated by the State  
68 Corporation Commission as (i) a financial institution, (ii) a mortgage lender or broker, (iii) any business  
69 under Chapter 5 (§ 13.1-501 et seq.) of Title 13.1, (iv) any business under Title 38.2, or (v) any  
70 business under Title 56;

71 10. Accept a gift from a person who has interests that may be substantially affected by the  
72 performance of the legislator's official duties under circumstances where the timing and nature of the gift  
73 would cause a reasonable person to question the legislator's impartiality in the matter affecting the  
74 donor. Violations of this subdivision shall not be subject to criminal law penalties; or

75 11. Accept gifts from sources on a basis so frequent as to raise an appearance of the use of his  
76 public office for private gain. Violations of this subdivision shall not be subject to criminal law  
77 penalties.