

Chapter ETH 16

LOBBYING

ETH 16.02 Hospitality, defined.
ETH 16.03 Topic of a lobbying communication.

ETH 16.04 Proposed administrative rule number.
ETH 16.05 Voluntary lobbyist home address disclosure.

Note: Chapter Eth 1 as it existed on June 30, 1976 was repealed and a new Chapter Eth 1 was created effective July 1, 1976. Chapter Eth 1 was renumbered chapter GAB 16 under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register April 2008 No. 628. Chapter GAB 16 was renumbered Chapter ETH 16 under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register June 2016 No. 726.

ETH 16.02 Hospitality, defined. When used in s. 19.42 (1), Stats., “hospitality” includes but is not limited to meals, beverages and lodging which a host other than an organization offers a guest on premises owned or occupied by the host or his or her immediate family as the host’s principal or seasonal residence. Hospitality is unrelated to state business if the hospitality would be extended if the recipient or a member of the recipient’s immediate family did not hold a state public office.

Note: Anything of value is defined at s. 19.42 (1), Stats., and later appears at ss. 19.42 (6) and 19.45 (2), (3) and (4), Stats. Specifically excluded from the term is “. . . hospitality extended for a purpose unrelated to state business by a person other than an organization.”

In general, these sections provide that a state public official may not use his or her public office to obtain anything of substantial value and may not accept anything of value if it could reasonably be expected to influence the official’s judgment. Moreover, a state official must report annually the acceptance of anything of value received as a gift from someone other than a relative if its value exceeds \$50.

ETH 16.02 identifies the most common situations coming within the hospitality exclusion. Many other circumstances may come within the exclusion (e.g., wedding receptions, theater parties, hunting trips) but because of their diverse character no general rule can be stated. Written opinions on the term’s application to situations not addressed here may be obtained from the board on request.

The rule also identifies the circumstances under which hospitality is unrelated to state business.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1976, No. 246, eff. 7–1–76; am. (1) and (5), Register, September, 1976, No. 249, eff. 10–1–76; renum. (6) to be (7), cr. (6), Register, May, 1977, No. 257, eff. 6–1–77; am. (1), Register, June, 1977, No. 258, eff. 7–1–77; renum. (7) to be (8), cr. (7), Register, November, 1977, No. 263, eff. 12–1–77; am. (intro.), r. and recr. (1) and r. (2) to (8), Register, October, 1978, No. 274, eff. 11–1–78; renum. (1) to be (2), cr. (1), Register, July, 1979, No. 283, eff. 8–1–79; am. (intro.) and (1), r. (2), Register, April, 1985, No. 352, eff. 5–1–85.

ETH 16.03 Topic of a lobbying communication. A person reports a topic as provided by s. 13.67, Stats., if the person provides the ethics commission all of the following information:

(1) A succinct written statement sufficient to put the reader on notice of the communication’s specific subject matter.

(2) Whether the communication is an attempt to influence legislative or administrative action, or both.

(4) A single category designation, chosen from the following list:

- (a) Administrative Law.
- (am) Agriculture and Forestry.
- (b) Alcohol Beverage Regulation.
- (bm) Buildings and Safety.
- (c) Campaign Finance.
- (cg) Children.
- (cr) Claims.
- (d) Collective Bargaining.
- (dm) Commerce and Consumer Protection.
- (e) Constitutional Amendments.
- (em) Correctional System.
- (f) Courts.
- (fg) Criminal Law.
- (fr) DCF Public Assistance.
- (g) Discrimination.

- (gm) Domestic Relations.
- (h) Drunk Driving.
- (hm) Economic Development.
- (i) Education K–12.
- (ig) Elderly and Aging.
- (ir) Election Law.
- (j) Eminent Domain.
- (jm) Energy and Utilities.
- (k) Environment and Natural Resources.
- (km) Ethics and Lobby Law.
- (L) Family Law.
- (Lg) Federal/State Relations.
- (Lr) Financial Institutions and Business Associations.
- (m) Gambling.
- (mm) Health.
- (n) Education (Higher Ed and Technical Colleges).
- (nm) Housing.
- (o) Indian Affairs.
- (og) Individual Income Taxation.
- (or) Investment Board.
- (p) Insurance.
- (pm) Judiciary.
- (q) Juvenile Justice and Children’s Code.
- (qm) Labor and Employment.
- (r) Land Use and Zoning.
- (rg) Legislative Procedure.
- (rr) Local Government.
- (s) Medical Assistance and DHS Public Assistance.
- (sm) Mental Health.
- (t) Natural Resources.
- (tm) Occupational Regulation.
- (u) Privacy.
- (ug) Probate.
- (ur) Public Records and Open Meetings.
- (v) Public Sector Employment and Benefits.
- (vm) Public Utilities.
- (w) Real Estate and Housing.
- (wm) Retirement.
- (x) Shared Revenue.
- (xg) State Government and Finance.
- (xr) Taxation.
- (y) Trade Regulation.
- (ym) Transportation.
- (z) Unemployment Insurance.
- (zm) Veterans and Military Affairs.

History: Cr. Register, September, 2000, No. 537, eff. 10–1–00; CR 03–061; am. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1–1–04; correction in (intro.) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 6., Stats., Register June 2016 No. 726; CR 18–017; am. (1), r. (3), cr. (4) Register July 2019 No. 763, eff. 1–1–20; correction in (4) (r) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register July 2019 No. 763; correction in (4) (s) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 6., Stats., Register July 2019 No. 763.

ETH 16.04 Proposed administrative rule number. A person reports a proposed administrative rule number as provided by s. 13.67, Stats., if the person provides the commission the state agency name and scope statement number.

History: CR 03-061: cr. Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-1-04; CR 18-017: cons. and renum. (intro.) and (1) to ETH 16.04 and am., r. (2) Register July 2019 No. 763, eff. 1-1-20.

ETH 16.05 Voluntary lobbyist home address disclosure. The Commission may request a lobbyist to voluntarily provide his or her home address to the commission upon application for licensure. An address provided under this section may be retained and utilized by the commission only for the purpose of auditing for contributions prohibited by s. 13.625, Stats.

History: CR 18-017: cr. Register July 2019 No. 763, eff. 1-1-20.