

Ethics Commission draft code, proposed definition of gift:

4) **Gift:** “Gift” means anything of value, tangible or intangible, that is bestowed for less than adequate consideration. [Sources: 3 V.S.A. § 1201(4)(a) and 2 V.S.A. § 261(6)(A)(ii).] Included within this definition are travel expenses such as travel fare, room and board, and other expenses associated with travel.

(a) Examples of “gifts” may also include:

(1) a political contribution; [Source: 2 V.S.A. § 261(6)(A)(i)]

(2) a meal or alcoholic beverage; [Source: 2 V.S.A. § 261(6)(A)(iii)]

(3) a ticket, fee, or expenses for or to any sporting, recreational, or entertainment

event; [Source: 2 V.S.A. § 261(6)(A)(iv)]

(4) a speaking fee or honorarium, except actual and reasonable travel expenses;

[Source: 2 V.S.A. § 261(6)(A)(v)]

(5) a loan made on terms more favorable than those made generally available to the

public in the normal course of business. [Source: 2 V.S.A. § 261(6)(A)(vi),

3 V.S.A. § 1201(4)(a), 2 V.S.A. § 261(6)(A)(ii)]

(b) Not Considered “Gifts:”

(1) An item which would qualify as a “gift,” but which is not used, and which within 30

days after receipt, is returned to the donor, or for which the donor is reimbursed for its

fair market value will not be considered a “gift;” [2 V.S.A. § 261]

(2) anything given between immediate family members;

(3) printed educational material such as books, reports, pamphlets, or periodicals;

(4) a devise or inheritance.

[currently in 3 V.S.A. § 1201(4)(B) and 2 V.S.A. § 261

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