

## 6.611 Definitions for code.

As used in this code, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) "Adversarial proceeding" means a proceeding in which decisions are made based upon evidence presented as measured against established standards, with parties having the right to appeal the decision on the record to a court;
- (2) (a) "Anything of value" includes the following:
  1. A pecuniary item, including money, or a bank bill or note;
  2. A promissory note, bill of exchange, order, draft, warrant, check, or bond given for the payment of money;
  3. A contract, agreement, promise, or other obligation for an advance, conveyance, forgiveness of indebtedness, deposit, distribution, loan, payment, gift, pledge, or transfer of money;
  4. A stock, bond, note, or other investment interest in an entity;
  5. A receipt given for the payment of money or other property;
  6. A right in action;
  7. A gift, tangible good, chattel, or an interest in a gift, tangible good, or chattel;
  8. A loan or forgiveness of indebtedness;
  9. A work of art, antique, or collectible;
  10. An automobile or other means of personal transportation;
  11. Real property or an interest in real property, including title to realty; a fee simple or partial interest, present or future, contingent or vested, within realty; a leasehold interest; or other beneficial interest in realty;
  12. A rebate or discount in the price of anything of value unless the rebate or discount is made in the ordinary course of business to a member of the public without regard to that person's status as a legislator;
  13. A promise or offer of employment; or
  14. Any other thing of value that is pecuniary or compensatory in value to a person, or the primary significance of which is economic gain.
- (b) "Anything of value" does not include:
  1. A campaign contribution properly received and reported, if reportable, as required under KRS Chapter 121;
  2. Compensation, food, beverages, entertainment, transportation, lodging, or other goods or services extended to a legislator by the legislator's private employer or by a person other than a legislative agent or employer;
  3. A usual and customary commercial loan made in the ordinary course of business, without regard to the recipient's status as a legislator, and by a person or institution authorized by law to engage in the business of making loans;
  4. A certificate, plaque, or commemorative token of less than one hundred

fifty dollars (\$150) value;

5. Promotional items of less than fifty dollars (\$50);
6. Educational items;
7. Informational items;
8. The cost of attendance or participation, and of food and beverages consumed, at events:
  - a. To which all members of the Kentucky Senate or the Kentucky House of Representatives, or both, are invited;
  - b. To which all members of a joint committee or task force of the Kentucky Senate and the Kentucky House of Representatives are invited;
  - c. To which a caucus of legislators approved as a caucus by the Legislative Research Commission is invited;
  - d. Sponsored or coordinated by a state or local government entity, including a state institution of higher education, provided that the cost thereof is covered by the state or local government entity or state institution of higher education; or
  - e. To which an individual legislator is invited that are held in-state, and for which the legislator receives prior approval from a majority of the Legislative Research Commission;
9. Gifts from a person related by blood or marriage or a member of the legislator's household;
10. A gift that:
  - a. Is not used; and
  - b. No later than thirty (30) days after receipt, is returned to the donor or delivered to a charitable organization and is not claimed as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes;
11. The cost, paid, reimbursed, raised, or obtained by the Legislative Research Commission, for attendance or participation, and for food and beverages consumed at, and funds, goods, and services provided for conducting events sponsored or coordinated by multistate or national organizations of, or including, state governments, state legislatures, or state legislators if the attendance and expenditures are approved in advance by the Legislative Research Commission;
12. The cost of attendance or participation provided by the sponsoring entity, of lodging, and of food and beverages consumed, at in-state events sponsored by or in conjunction with a civic, charitable, governmental, trade association, or community organization;
13. A gift or gifts from one member of the General Assembly to another member of the General Assembly;
14. Anything for which the recipient pays or gives full value; or
15. Any service spontaneously extended to a legislator in an emergency situation;

- (3) "Associated," if used with reference to an organization, includes an organization in which an individual or a member of the individual's family is a director, officer, fiduciary, trustee, agent, or partner, or owns or controls, in the aggregate, an interest of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more, or an interest of five percent (5%) or more of the outstanding equity;
- (4) "Business" means any corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, self-employed individual, holding company, joint stock company, receivership, trust, professional service corporation, or any legal entity through which business is conducted for profit;
- (5) "Business associate" includes the following:
  - (a) A private employer;
  - (b) A general or limited partnership, or a general or limited partner within the partnership;
  - (c) A corporation that is family-owned or in which all shares of stock are closely held, and the shareholders, owners, and officers of such a corporation;
  - (d) A corporation in which the legislator or other person subject to this code has an investment interest, owns, or has a beneficial interest in shares of stock which constitute more than:
    - 1. Five percent (5%) of the value of the corporation; or
    - 2. Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) at fair market value;
  - (e) A corporation, business association, or other business entity in which the legislator or other person subject to this code serves as an agent or a compensated representative;
- (6) "Candidate" means an individual who seeks nomination or election to the General Assembly. An individual is a candidate when the individual:
  - (a) Files a notification and declaration for nomination for office with the Secretary of State; or
  - (b) Is nominated for office by his or her party under KRS 118.105, 118.115, 118.325, or 118.760;
- (7) "Charitable organization" means an organization described in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 170(c) as it currently exists or as it may be amended;
- (8) "Child" means the unemancipated minor daughter, son, stepdaughter, or stepson;
- (9) "Commission" means the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission;
- (10) (a) "Compensation" means:
  - 1. An advance, salary, conveyance, forgiveness of indebtedness, deposit, distribution, loan, payment, gift, pledge, or transfer of money; or
  - 2. A contract, agreement, promise, or other obligation for an advance, conveyance, forgiveness of indebtedness, deposit, distribution, loan, payment, gift, pledge, or transfer of money for services rendered or to be rendered.
- (b) "Compensation" does not include reimbursement of expenses if:
  - 1. The reimbursement is equal to, or less than, the amount paid for the

- expenses;
  - 2. Expense records are itemized; and
  - 3. No portion of the reimbursed expense is used to give anything of value to a legislator, candidate, or the spouse of a legislator or candidate;
- (11) "Economic interest" means an interest distinct from that of the general public in a state purchase, sale, lease, contract, option, or other transaction or arrangement involving property or services in which a legislator may gain an economic benefit of fifty dollars (\$50) or more;
- (12) "Employer" means any person who engages a legislative agent and in the case of a business other than a sole proprietorship or self-employed individual, it means the business entity, and not an individual officer, director, or employee thereof, except when an officer, director, or employee makes an expenditure for which he or she is reimbursed by the business entity;
- (13) "Engage" means to make any arrangement, and "engagement" means any arrangement, by which an individual is employed or retained for compensation to act for or on behalf of an employer to lobby;
- (14) "Ethical misconduct" means any violation of the Kentucky Code of Legislative Ethics;
- (15) (a) "Expenditure" means any of the following that is made to, at the request of, for the benefit of, or on behalf of any member of the General Assembly, the Governor, the secretary of a cabinet listed in KRS 12.250, or any member of the staff of any of those officials:
- 1. A payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, reimbursement, or gift of money, real estate, or anything of value, including, but not limited to, food and beverages, entertainment, lodging, transportation, or honoraria;
  - 2. A contract, promise, or agreement, to make an expenditure; or
  - 3. The purchase, sale, or gift of services or any other thing of value.
- (b) "Expenditure" does not include a contribution, gift, or grant to a foundation or other charitable organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. "Expenditure" does not include the purchase, sale, or gift of services or any other thing of value that is available to the general public on the same terms as it is available to the persons listed in this subsection;
- (16) "Family member" means a person:
- (a) Who is the spouse, parent, sibling, child, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, or grandchild of an individual; or
  - (b) Who is a member of the individual's household, and is dependent upon the individual;
- (17) "Filer" means an individual who is required to file a statement of financial interests pursuant to KRS 6.781;
- (18) (a) "Financial transaction" means a transaction or activity that is conducted or undertaken for profit and arises from the joint ownership, ownership, or part ownership in common of any real or personal property or any commercial or

business enterprise of whatever form or nature between the following:

1. A legislative agent, his or her employer, or a member of the immediate family of the legislative agent or his or her employer; and
  2. Any member of the General Assembly, the Governor, the secretary of a cabinet listed in KRS 12.250, or any member of the staff of any of the officials listed in this subparagraph.
- (b) "Financial transaction" does not include any transaction or activity:
1. Described in paragraph (a) of this subsection if it is available to the general public on the same or similar terms and conditions; or
  2. Made or let after public notice and competitive bidding or contracts that are available on similar terms to other members of the general public.
- (19) "Former legislator" means a person who previously held a position as a legislator and who no longer holds that position;
- (20) "Immediate family" means an unemancipated child residing in an individual's household, a spouse of an individual, or a person claimed by the individual as a dependent for tax purposes;
- (21) "In-state" means within the borders of Kentucky or outside Kentucky in a county that is contiguous with the border of Kentucky;
- (22) "Legislation" means bills, resolutions, amendments, nominations, administrative regulations, and any other matter pending before the General Assembly or any of its interim or statutory committees, or the executive approval or veto of any bill acted upon by the General Assembly;
- (23) (a) "Legislative agent" means any individual who is engaged:
1. During at least a portion of his or her time to lobby as one (1) of his or her official responsibilities; or
  2. In lobbying activities as a legislative liaison of an association, coalition, or public interest entity formed for the purpose of promoting or otherwise influencing legislation.
- (b) "Legislative agent" does not include:
1. Any person who limits his or her lobbying activities to appearing before public meetings of legislative committees, subcommittees, or task forces, or public hearings or meetings of public agencies;
  2. A private citizen who receives no compensation for lobbying and who expresses a personal opinion; or
  3. A public servant acting in his or her fiduciary capacity as a representative of his or her agency, college, university, or city, county, urban-county, consolidated local government, unified local government, or charter county government, except persons engaged by a de jure municipal corporation, such as the Kentucky Lottery Corporation or the Kentucky Housing Corporation, institutions of higher education, or local governments, whose primary responsibility during sessions of the General Assembly is to lobby;
- (24) "Legislative interest" means a substantial economic interest, distinct from that of

the general public, in one (1) or more legislative matters;

- (25) "Legislative matter" means any bill, resolution, nomination, or other issue or proposal pending before the General Assembly or any interim committee, committee, subcommittee, task force, or commission of the General Assembly;
- (26) "Legislator" means a member or member-elect of the General Assembly;
- (27) (a) "Lobby" means to promote, advocate, or oppose the passage, modification, defeat, or executive approval or veto of any legislation by direct communication with any member of the General Assembly, the Governor, the secretary of any cabinet listed in KRS 12.250, or any member of the staff of any of the officials listed in this paragraph.
- (b) "Lobbying" does not include:
1. Appearances before public meetings of the committees, subcommittees, task forces, and interim committees of the General Assembly;
  2. News, editorial, and advertising statements published in newspapers, journals, or magazines, or broadcast over radio or television;
  3. The gathering and furnishing of information and news by bona fide reporters, correspondents, or news bureaus to news media described in paragraph (b)2. of this subsection;
  4. Publications primarily designed for, and distributed to, members of bona fide associations or charitable or fraternal nonprofit corporations;
  5. Professional services in drafting bills or resolutions, preparing arguments on these bills or resolutions, or in advising clients and rendering opinions as to the construction and the effect of proposed or pending legislation, if the services are not otherwise connected with lobbying;
  6. The action of any person not engaged by an employer who has a direct interest in legislation, if the person, acting under Section 1 of the Kentucky Constitution, assembles together with other persons for their common good, petitions any official listed in this subsection for the redress of grievances, or other proper purposes; or
  7. The action of any natural person:
    - a. Whose official responsibilities do not include lobbying;
    - b. Who is not compensated specifically for the purpose of lobbying;
    - c. Who is an officer, managerial personnel, or an employee with specialized knowledge or expertise of, a business, joint venture, syndicate, estate, company, association, club, committee, or group of persons acting in concert which has a direct interest in the specific legislation; and
    - d. Who participates in meetings or conversations while accompanying a legislative agent engaged by the employer or organization to lobby on the particular issue;
- (28) "Person" means an individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, joint stock company, syndicate, business, trust, estate, company, corporation, association,

club, committee, organization, or group of persons acting in concert;

- (29) "Public servant" means an elected or appointed officer or employee of a federal or state agency; state institution of higher education; or a city, county, urban-county, or charter county government;
- (30) "State agency" means any department, office, commission, board, or authority within the executive department, and includes state-supported universities and colleges but does not include local boards of education; and
- (31) "Through others" means a scheme, artifice, or mechanism, the sole purpose of which is to accomplish by indirect means, using third parties, results which would be unlawful under this code if accomplished directly between a legislator or candidate and another person or entity.

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**History:** Amended 2024 Ky. Acts ch. 184, sec. 3, effective July 15, 2024. -- Amended 2014 Ky. Acts ch. 75, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2014. -- Amended 2005 Ky. Acts ch. 105, sec. 13, effective March 16, 2005. -- Amended 1996 Ky. Acts ch. 211, sec. 1, effective July 15, 1996. -- Amended 1994 Ky. Acts ch. 479, sec. 2, effective July 15, 1994. -- Amended 1993 (1st Extra. Sess.) Ky. Acts ch. 4, sec. 4, effective September 16, 1993. -- Created 1976 Ky. Acts ch. 262, sec. 1.

**Formerly codified as KRS 6.750.**