

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Council Bill 15-0498**

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Introduced by: The Council President  
At the request of: The Administration (Board of Ethics, Office of the Inspector General)  
Introduced and read first time: March 23, 2015  
Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee  
Committee Report: Favorable  
Council action: Adopted  
Read second time: June 1, 2015

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**AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING**

**Public Ethics Law – Prohibited Gifts – Duplicative Exemptions**

FOR the purpose of consolidating certain overlapping and redundant exemptions for gifts related to the payment of expenses for a speaking engagement or for participation on a panel; correcting, clarifying, and conforming related provisions; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to ethics in the public sector.

BY repealing and reordaining, with amendments

Article 8 - Ethics  
Section(s) 6-28(3), (5), and (6)  
Baltimore City Code  
(Edition 2000)

BY repealing

Article 8 - Ethics  
Section(s) 6-28(7) and 6-30  
Baltimore City Code  
(Edition 2000)

**SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

**Baltimore City Code**

**Article 8. Ethics**

**Subtitle 6. Conflicts of Interest**

**§ 6-28. Qualified exemptions.**

Subject to § 6-29 {“Exemption limitations”} of this subtitle, the prohibitions in § 6-27 {“Acceptance prohibited”} of this subtitle do not apply to the unsolicited receipt of:

**EXPLANATION:** CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.  
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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1           ...  
2           (3) in return for a speaking engagement or participation on a panel at a meeting,  
3           reasonable expenses, ACTUALLY INCURRED AND VERIFIABLE, for food, travel, lodging,  
4           CHILD OR DEPENDANT CARE, and scheduled entertainment of the public servant, but  
5           only if:

6                   (i) the expenses are associated with the meeting; and

7                   (ii) to the extent the expenses are anticipated to exceed \$500, the public servant  
8                   has notified the Ethics Board before attending the meeting;

9           ...  
10           (5) a specific gift or class of gifts that the Ethics Board exempts on a written finding that  
11           acceptance of the gift or class of gifts would not be detrimental to the impartial  
12           conduct of City business; OR

13           (6) gifts from a spouse, parent, child, or sibling[; or].

14           [(7) honoraria, to the extent provided in § 6-30 {"Honoraria"} of this subtitle.]

15   **[§ 6-30. Honoraria.]**

16           [(a) "*Honorarium*" defined.]

17           [(1) "Honorarium" means the payment of money or anything of value for:

18                   (i) speaking to, participating in, or attending a meeting or other function; or

19                   (ii) writing an article that has been or is intended to be published.]

20           [(2) "Honorarium" does not include payment for writing a book that has been or is  
21           intended to be published.]

22           [(b) *Permitted honoraria*.]

23           [Subject to § 6-29 {"Exemption limitations"} of this subtitle, a public servant may accept  
24           an honorarium if:

25                   (1) the honorarium consists of gifts described in § 6-28(2) of this subtitle; or

26                   (2) the honorarium is limited to reasonable expenses, actually incurred and verifiable,  
27                   for:

28                           (i) the public servant's meals, travel, and lodging; and

29                           (ii) care for a child or dependent adult.]

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1 [(c) *Prohibited honoraria.*]

2 [Other than as allowed by subsection (b) of this section, a public servant may not accept  
3 an honorarium, even if not otherwise disqualified under § 6-29 {"Exemption  
4 limitations"} of this subtitle, if:

5 (1) the payor of the honorarium has an interest that might be affected substantially and  
6 materially, in a manner distinguishable from the public generally, by the  
7 performance or nonperformance of the public servant’s official duties; and]

8 (2) the offer of the honorarium is in any way related to the public servant’s official  
9 duties.]

10 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance  
11 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior  
12 Ordinance.

13 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the date  
14 that it is enacted.

Certified as duly passed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to Her Honor, the Mayor,

this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

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Mayor, Baltimore City