

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 15-0498  
(First Reader)**

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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  

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Board of Ethics

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

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

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

7 BY repealing and reordaining, with amendments

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

12 BY repealing

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

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

19 **Baltimore City Code**

20 **Article 8. Ethics**

21 **Subtitle 6. Conflicts of Interest**

22 **§ 6-28. Qualified exemptions.**

23 Subject to § 6-29 {“Exemption limitations”} of this subtitle, the prohibitions in § 6-27  
24 {“Acceptance prohibited”} of this subtitle do not apply to the unsolicited receipt of:  
25 . . .

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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

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

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

8 . . .  
9 (5) a specific gift or class of gifts that the Ethics Board exempts on a written finding that  
10 acceptance of the gift or class of gifts would not be detrimental to the impartial  
11 conduct of City business; OR

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

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

14 [**§ 6-30. Honoraria.**]

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

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

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

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

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

21 [(b) *Permitted honoraria.*]

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

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

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

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

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

29 [(c) *Prohibited honoraria.*]

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

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- 1           (1) the payor of the honorarium has an interest that might be affected substantially and
- 2           materially, in a manner distinguishable from the public generally, by the
- 3           performance or nonperformance of the public servant’s official duties; and]
  
- 4           (2) the offer of the honorarium is in any way related to the public servant’s official
- 5           duties.]

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

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