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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. **2526**

03/20/2025

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Elections Finance and Government Operations

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to local government; expanding exceptions to prohibition against gifts to
- 1.3 local officials under certain conditions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section
- 1.4 471.895, subdivision 3.
- 1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 471.895, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
- 1.7 Subd. 3. **Exceptions.** (a) The prohibitions in this section do not apply if the gift is:
- 1.8 (1) a contribution as defined in section 211A.01, subdivision 5;
- 1.9 (2) services to assist an official in the performance of official duties, including but not
- 1.10 limited to providing advice, consultation, information, and communication in connection
- 1.11 with legislation, and services to constituents;
- 1.12 (3) services of insignificant monetary value;
- 1.13 (4) a plaque or similar memento recognizing individual services in a field of specialty
- 1.14 or to a charitable cause;
- 1.15 (5) a trinket or memento costing \$5 or less;
- 1.16 (6) informational material of unexceptional value; ~~or~~
- 1.17 (7) food or a beverage given at a reception, meal, or meeting away from the recipient's
- 1.18 place of work by an organization before whom the recipient appears to make a speech or
- 1.19 answer questions as part of a program;
- 1.20 (8) services for mental health or wellness support, including but not limited to counseling,
- 1.21 therapy, peer support, recreational activities, wellness days, or meals that are provided at

2.1 no cost to first responders by any nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to support
2.2 the mental or physical health and well-being of public safety personnel, provided that such
2.3 services are offered voluntarily and are not contingent upon any official action or decision
2.4 by the recipient; or

2.5 (9) a meal or event organized by a nonprofit entity that is specifically designed to provide
2.6 comfort and support to first responders following a death or significant traumatic event that
2.7 occurred in the line of duty, provided that the event is open to all affected personnel and
2.8 not targeted to influence specific political or official actions.

2.9 (b) The prohibitions in this section do not apply if the gift is given:

2.10 (1) because of the recipient's membership in a group, a majority of whose members are
2.11 not local officials, and an equivalent gift is given or offered to the other members of the
2.12 group;

2.13 (2) by an interested person who is a member of the family of the recipient, unless the
2.14 gift is given on behalf of someone who is not a member of that family; or

2.15 (3) by a national or multistate organization of governmental organizations or public
2.16 officials, if a majority of the dues to the organization are paid from public funds, to attendees
2.17 at a conference sponsored by that organization, if the gift is food or a beverage given at a
2.18 reception or meal and an equivalent gift is given or offered to all other attendees.