



MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

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Executive Director

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The Missouri Ethics Commission, at its January 15, 2019 meeting, took the following actions:

The Commission voted unanimously to request an advisory opinion from the Attorney General's office regarding Amendment 1. The question is:

Amendment 1 provides that "no person serving as a member of or employed by the General Assembly shall act or serve as a paid lobbyist, register as a paid lobbyist, or solicit prospective employers or clients to represent as a paid lobbyist during the time of such service until the expiration of two calendar years after the conclusion of the session of the general assembly in which the member or employee last served. . . ." It also contains the following prohibition: "No person serving as a member of or employed by the General Assembly shall accept directly or indirectly a gift of any tangible item, service, or thing of value from any paid lobbyist or lobbyist principal in excess of five dollars per occurrence." Does Section 105.957.1(6), RSMo, authorize the Missouri Ethics Commission to accept complaints regarding alleged violations of these provisions and to issue advisory opinions pertaining to these provisions?

The Commission also voted unanimously to place a notice with Advisory Opinion 2018.01.L.002. The notice is as follows:

NOTICE RELATED TO MEC OPINION NO. 2018.01.L.002

On January 16, 2018, the Missouri Ethics Commission issued Advisory Opinion No. 2018.01.L.002, which provided guidance related to compliance with Executive Order 17-02. Executive Order 17-02, prohibiting executive branch employees from taking lobbyist gifts, was issued by Governor Eric Greitens on January 9, 2017. On November 20, 2018, Governor Mike Parson issued Executive Order 18-10, which revised and improved certain provisions of Executive order 17-02. Notably, Executive Order 18-10 specifies that the term "gift" has the same meaning as the term "expenditure" as it is defined in § 105.470(3), RSMo. The term "expenditure" excludes informational material. Accordingly, to the extent Advisory Opinion No. 2018.01.L.002 advises that some informational publications fall within the definition of "gifts," that advice is limited to the time Executive Order 17-02 was in effect: January 9, 2017 to November 20, 2018.