

Present law, relative to Code of Governmental Ethics, provides that no public servant and no legal entity in which the public servant exercises control or owns an interest in excess of 25% shall receive any thing of economic value for or in consideration of services rendered, or to be rendered, to or for any person who has or is seeking to obtain a contractual or other business or financial relationships with the public servant's agency.

Present law provides that no public servant shall solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any thing of economic value as a gift or gratuity from any person or from any officer, director, agent, or employee of such person, if such public servant knows or reasonably should know that such person has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationships with the public servant's agency.

Present law defines "public servant" as a public employee or an elected official.

Proposed law would provide an exception to present law to allow a member of a governing authority of a municipality with a population of 5,000 or less or legal entity in which he has a controlling interest to enter into any transaction with or accept compensation from a person or entity which has entered into a transaction with the municipality.

Would have become effective August 1, 2012.

(Proposed to add R.S. 42:1123(42))

VETO MESSAGE: "Senate Bill No. 226 by Senator Morrish weakens the application and enforcement of the ethics code in local municipalities.

For this reason, I have vetoed Senate Bill No. 226 and hereby return it to the Senate."