

IOWA ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE BOARD

An Independent Agency of the Executive Branch

W. CHARLES SMITHSON
Executive Director
& Legal Counsel

January 30, 2009

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BOARD MEMBERS:

James Albert, Chair
Janet Carl, Vice Chair
Gerald Sullivan
Betsy Roe
John Walsh
Patricia Harper

Holly M. Lyons
Division Director
LSA-Fiscal Services
Ground Floor, State Capitol

Re: Iowa Code section 8.7 Gifts and Bequests Report

Dear Division Director Lyons:

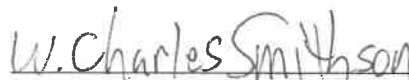
Iowa Code section 8.7 requires “all gifts and bequests received by a department or accepted by the governor on behalf of the state” to be reported to the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board (Board). The law requires the Board to then submit to the Fiscal Division of the Legislative Services Agency a summary report.

When the law was initially enacted, grants received by agencies were also required to be reported to the Board. Pursuant to 2008 Iowa Acts, Ch 1191, section 25 grants are now reported to the Department of Management. This change was effective July 1, 2008.

The following actions have been taken to implement the requirements of the law:

1. The Government Oversight Committee has deemed reports filed with the Board as complying with the requirement that reports be filed with the Committee.
2. To assist departments, the Board accepts copies of internal tracking devices such as excel spreadsheets in lieu of paper reports.
3. The Board has issued six advisory opinions interpreting the section. This is the link to the Board’s opinions interpreting the application of section 8.7:
http://www.state.ia.us/ethics/legal/adv_opn/category-gift_reporting/category-giftreporting.html#
4. Filings with the Board for 2008 are posted as they are received on the Board’s Web site for public viewing at: http://www.state.ia.us/ethics/ethics/gifts/gifts_2008.htm.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board by:



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