

House File 2353 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2353

BY JACOBSEN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to permissible honoraria from restricted
2 donors to public officials and public employees and making
3 penalties applicable.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 68B.23, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code
2 2020, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. The honorarium consists of payment, not to exceed four
4 hundred ninety-nine dollars per day, of actual expenses of a
5 donee for registration, food, beverages, travel, and lodging
6 paid in return for participation in a panel or speaking
7 engagement at a meeting when the expenses relate directly to
8 the day or days on which the recipient has participation or
9 presentation responsibilities.

10 EXPLANATION

11 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
12 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

13 This bill relates to permissible honoraria from restricted
14 donors to public officials and public employees.

15 Under Code chapter 68B (government ethics and lobbying),
16 a public official or public employee is prohibited from
17 seeking or accepting an honorarium from a restricted donor,
18 subject to certain exceptions. One such exception permits a
19 public official or public employee to accept an honorarium if
20 the honorarium consists of payment for the public official
21 or public employee's actual expenses for registration,
22 food, beverages, travel, and lodging paid in return for
23 participation in a panel or speaking engagement when the
24 expenses relate directly to the day or days on which the public
25 official or public employee has participation or presentation
26 responsibilities. The bill provides that a public official or
27 public employee may not accept an honorarium that is payment
28 for actual expenses in exchange for a panel or speaking
29 engagement if the payment exceeds \$499 per day.

30 A knowing and intentional violation of the limitations on
31 accepting an honorarium is a serious misdemeanor. A serious
32 misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than one
33 year and a fine of at least \$315 but not more than \$1,875.

34 In addition, a person who accepts an honorarium in
35 violation of Code chapter 68B is subject to civil penalties

H.F. 2353

1 or disciplinary action issued by the ethics and campaign
2 disclosure board and to disciplinary action taken by the ethics
3 committees of the senate and house of representatives.