

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

State law requires that the following provisions from the Government Code be provided and a signed receipt secured from each officer or employee.

Government Code, Sec. 572.051. Standards of Conduct.

A state officer or employee should not:

- (1) accept or solicit any gift, favor, or service that might reasonably tend to influence the officer or employee in the discharge of official duties or that the officer or employee knows or should know is being offered with the intent to influence the officer's or employee's official conduct;
- (2) accept other employment or engage in business or professional activity that the officer or employee might reasonably expect would require or induce the officer or employee to disclose confidential information acquired by reason of the official position;
- (3) accept other employment or compensation that could reasonably be expected to impair the officer's or employee's independence of judgment in the performance of the officer's or employee's official duties;
- (4) make personal investments that could reasonably be expected to create a substantial conflict between the officer's or employee's private interest and the public interest; or
- (5) intentionally or knowingly solicit, accept, or agree to accept any benefit for having exercised the officer's or employee's official powers or performed the officer's or employee's official duties in favor of another.

Government Code, Chapter 556. Political Activities by Certain Public Entities and Individuals.

Sec.556.004. PROHIBITED ACTS OF AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS

- (a) A state agency may not use any money under its control, including appropriated money, to finance or otherwise support the candidacy of a person for an office in the legislative, executive, or judicial branch of state government or of the government of the United States. This prohibition extends to the direct or indirect employment of a person to perform an action described by this subsection.
- (b) A state officer or employee may not use a state-owned or state-leased motor vehicle for a purpose described by Subsection (a).
- (c) A state officer or employee may not use official authority or influence or permit the use of a program administered by the state agency of which the person is an officer or employee to interfere with or affect the result of an election or nomination of a candidate or to achieve any other political purpose.
- (d) A state employee may not coerce, attempt to coerce, command, restrict, attempt to restrict, or prevent the payment, loan, or contribution of any thing of value to a person or political organization for a political purpose.
- (e) For purposes of Subsection (c), a state officer or employee does not interfere with or affect the results an election or nomination if the individual's conduct is permitted by a law relating to the individual's office or employment and is not otherwise unlawful.

Sec.556.005. EMPLOYMENT OF LOBBYIST

- (a) A state agency may not use appropriated money to employ, as a regular full-time or part-time or contract employee, a person who is required by Chapter 305 to register as a lobbyist. Except for an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, a state agency may not use any money under its control to employ or contract with an individual who is required by Chapter 305 to register as a lobbyist.
- (b) A state agency may not use appropriated money to pay, on behalf of the agency or an officer or employee of the agency, membership dues to an organization that pays part or all of the salary of a person who is required by Chapter 305 to register as a lobbyist.
- (c) A state agency that violates Subsection (a) is subject to a reduction of amounts appropriated for administration by the General Appropriations Act for the biennium following the biennium in which the violation occurs in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for each violation.
- (d) A state agency administering a statewide retirement plan may enter into a contract to receive assistance or advise regarding the qualified tax status of the plan or on other federal matters affecting the administration of the state agency or its programs if the contractor is not required by Chapter 305 to register as a lobbyist.

Sec.556.006. LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING

- (a) A state agency may not use appropriated money to attempt to influence the passage or defeat of a legislative measure.
- (b) This section does not prohibit a state officer or employee from using state resources to provide public information or to provide information responsive to a request.

Sec.556.007. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT. A state employee who causes an employee to be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against for providing information under Section 556.006(b) or who violates Section 556.004(c) or (d) is subject to immediate termination of employment.

Sec.556.008. COMPENSATION PROHIBITION. A state agency may not use appropriated money to compensate a state officer or employee who violates Section 556.004(a), (b), or (c) or Section 556.005 or 556.006(a), or who is subject to termination under Section 556.007.

Receipt of the foregoing provisions of the Government Code is acknowledged this ____ day of _____, ____.

Signature of Employee

Print Name

UT EID

You may be entitled to know what information The University of Texas at Arlington (UT Arlington) collects concerning you. You may review and have UT Arlington correct this information according to procedures set of forth in UTS 139. The law is found in sections 552.021, 552.023 and 559.004 of the Texas Government Code.