

(b) (1) The prohibitions of subsection (a) of this section do not apply if participation is allowed:

(i) as to officials and employees subject to the authority of the Ethics Commission, by regulation of the Ethics Commission;

(ii) by the opinion of an advisory body; or

(iii) by another provision of this subtitle.

(2) This section does not prohibit participation by an official or employee that is limited to the exercise of an administrative or ministerial duty that does not affect the disposition or decision with respect to the matter involved.

(c) An official or employee who otherwise would be disqualified from participation under subsection (a) of this section shall disclose the nature and circumstances of the conflict, and may participate or act, if:

(1) the disqualification would leave a body with less than a quorum capable of acting;

(2) the disqualified official or employee is required by law to act; or

(3) the disqualified official or employee is the only individual authorized to act.

15-511.

(a) A personal interest of a member of the General Assembly conflicts with the public interest if it tends to impair the legislator's independence of judgment. The conflict disqualifies the legislator from voting upon any question or attempting to influence any legislation to which it relates.

(b) It is presumed that personal interest tends to impair a legislator's independence of judgment in any of the following circumstances:

(1) Having or acquiring a direct interest, distinct from that of the general public, in an enterprise which would be affected by the legislator's vote on proposed legislation.

(2) Benefiting financially from a close economic association with a person whom the legislator knows, or from the facts is presumed to know, has a direct interest in an enterprise or interest which would be affected by the legislator's vote on proposed legislation, differently from other like enterprises or interests; or benefiting financially from a close economic association with a person who is lobbying or who has employed a lobbyist to propose legislation or to influence legislators' votes. "Close economic association" includes and refers to the legislator's employer, employees, and partners in business and professional enterprises; partnerships, LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIPS, OR LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES in which the legislator has invested capital or owns any interest; corporations in which the legislator owns (not including any stock owned directly through a mutual fund, retirement plan, or other similar commingled investment