

State of New Jersey

Sponsor: Victoria Mora, Paterson

An Act relating to city council members writing an activity report every month to address political corruption

Be it enacted by the Youth Model Legislature of the State of New Jersey that city council members in New Jersey are required to complete a report that records all their activity every month to address political corruption

Section I Defines:

- "Public Official" is defined as a person working for the government, like elected officials, employees, or agents.
- "Conflict of Interest" is defined as when a public official's personal or family interests might affect their decisions.
- "Gift" is defined as a gift worth more than \$100 given to a public official.
- "Whistleblower" is defined as someone who reports wrongdoing by the government.

Section II: Financial Disclosures

1. Public officials must share their financial information, including income, debts, and business interests.
2. They must update this information every year and report changes within 30 days.
3. Failing to do so could result in fines or being removed from office.

Section III: Gifts and Benefits

1. Public officials cannot accept gifts over \$100 from people or companies that do business with the government.
2. All gifts over \$100 must be reported to the government.
3. Violating this rule can lead to fines and possible removal from office.

Section IV: Campaign Donations

4. Campaign donations cannot exceed \$5,000 per person or organization.
5. Donations over \$100 must be publicly reported.
6. Violating campaign donation rules could result in fines and removal from office.

Section V: Nonprofit Organizations

1. Public officials must disclose any financial interest in nonprofit organizations that receive government funding.
2. They are not allowed to use their position for personal gain through these organizations.

Section VI: Employment Restrictions

1. Public officials cannot hire or promote their family members in government jobs, unless the family member is qualified through a fair process.
2. Violations can lead to removal from office.

Section VII: Whistleblower Protections

1. People who report corruption will be protected from retaliation like losing their job.
2. If they provide useful information, they may receive a reward up to 20% of the fines the government collects from the case.

Section VIII: Enforcement and Penalties

1. An independent commission will monitor and enforce this law.
2. People who break the law can face fines up to \$50,000, or even jail time for serious offenses like bribery.

Section IX: Public-Private Partnerships

1. Public-private partnerships must be transparent. They will be regularly audited to ensure public money is used properly.
2. Violations can lead to fines or criminal charges.

Effective Date: March 1st, 2026