Joint Legislative Committee on Ethical Standards

Resolution on Ethics Counsel’s Question on Raffles

Ethics Counsel’s question on raffles reads as follows:

A member of the Legislature inquired whether he could purchase a raffle ticket with his personal funds from a non-profit corporation and accept the prize offered if he won the raffle, where the prize had been donated to the non-profit by a lobbyist or governmental affairs agent. The value of the prize exceeds $250.00. It should be assumed that the raffle is conducted in a lawful manner and the legislator’s change of winning the prize is the same as any other participant.

Whereas, based upon the assumptions included in Ethics Counsel’s question that the raffle is conducted in a lawful manner and the legislator’s chance of winning the prize is the same as any other participant’s chance of winning; now, therefore,

Be it resolved, members of the Legislature may participate in raffles run by non-profit corporations, and if a member of the Legislature wins, accept the prize, even if donated by a lobbyist or governmental affairs agent, subject to the foregoing assumptions.