

**Formal Advisory Opinion  
No. 12 of 2009**

**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 chance 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.