STATE OF NEW YORK

6005

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 21, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. KOLB, PALMESANO, RAIA, STEC -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. CROUCH, LOPEZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the legislative law, in relation to prohibiting or limiting outside income for legislative leaders and committee chairs

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The legislative law is amended by adding a new section 5-b to read as follows:

§ 5-b. Prohibition on outside earned income for legislative leaders and committee chairpersons. 1. Starting in calendar year two thousand nineteen, a member serving as temporary president of the senate, minority leader of the senate, speaker of the assembly, minority leader of the assembly, or other legislative coalition leader may not have outside earned income.

2. Starting in calendar year two thousand nineteen, a member serving as chairperson of any senate or assembly committee may not have outside earned income in any calendar year which exceeds fifteen percent of the gross annual salary of the office of governor.

3. a. For the purposes of this section, the term "outside earned income" shall mean any wages, salaries, fees, or any other forms of compensation paid, or to be paid, for services personally rendered.

b. For the purposes of this section, the term "outside earned income" does not include:

(1) an individual's legislative salary, or any allowances or benefits provided by law;

(2) income from pensions and other continuing benefits attributable to previous employment or services;

(3) income attributable to service with the military reserves or national guard;

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(4) income from investment activities, where the member's services are not a material factor in the production of income;

(5) income from a trade or business in which the member or their family holds a controlling interest, where the member's services are not a material factor in the production of income;

(6) copyright royalties, fees, and their functional equivalent, from the use or sale of copyright, patent and similar forms of intellectual property rights, when received from established users or purchasers of those rights; and

(7) compensation for services personally rendered prior to January first, two thousand nineteen, or prior to being elected or appointed as a legislative leader or committee chairperson.

4. a. A member of the legislature who knowingly and willfully violates the provisions of this section shall forfeit his or her leadership position or chairmanship; and shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars, plus the value of any compensation received as a result of such violation. Any such fine levied pursuant to this section shall be paid to the general fund of New York state.

b. Assessment of a civil penalty pursuant to this section shall be made by the legislative ethics commission. The legislative ethics commission, acting pursuant to subdivision eleven of section eighty of this chapter, shall, in addition to a civil penalty, refer a violation of this section to the appropriate law enforcement agency upon finding of any other criminal activity.

§ 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 9 of section 80 of the legislative law, as amended by section 9 of part A of chapter 399 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

(a) An individual subject to the jurisdiction of the commission with respect to the imposition of penalties who knowingly and intentionally violates the provisions of subdivisions two through five-a, seven, eight, twelve, fourteen or fifteen of section seventy-three of the public officers law or section five-b of this chapter or a reporting individual who knowingly and wilfully fails to file an annual statement of financial disclosure or who knowingly and wilfully with intent to deceive makes a false statement or gives information which such individual knows to be false on such statement of financial disclosure filed pursuant to section seventy-three-a of the public officers law shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed forty thousand dollars and the value of any gift, compensation or benefit received as a result of such violation. Any such individual who knowingly and intentionally violates the provisions of paragraph a, b, c, d, e, g, or i of subdivision three of section seventy-four of the public officers law shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars and the value of any gift, compensation or benefit received as a result of such violation. Assessment of a civil penalty hereunder shall be made by the commission with respect to persons subject to its jurisdiction. In assessing the amount of the civil penalties to be imposed, the commission shall consider the seriousness of the violation, the amount of gain to the individual and whether the individual previously had any civil or criminal penalties imposed pursuant to this section, and any other factors the commission deems appropriate. For a violation of this section, other than for conduct which constitutes a violation of subdivision twelve, fourteen or fifteen of section seventy-three or section seventy-four of the public officers law, the legislative ethics commission may, in lieu of or in addition to a civil

penalty, refer a violation to the appropriate prosecutor and upon such conviction, but only after such referral, such violation shall be punishable as a class A misdemeanor. Where the commission finds sufficient cause, it shall refer such matter to the appropriate prosecutor. A civil penalty for false filing may not be imposed hereunder in the event a category of "value" or "amount" reported hereunder is incorrect unless such reported information is falsely understated. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no other penalty, civil or criminal may be imposed for a failure to file, or for a false filing, of such statement, or a violation of subdivision six of section seventy-three of the public officers law, except that the appointing authority may impose disciplinary action as otherwise provided by law. The legislative ethics commission shall be deemed to be an agency within the meaning of article three of the state administrative procedure act and shall adopt rules governing the conduct of adjudicatory proceedings and appeals taken pursuant to a proceeding commenced under article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules relating to the assessment of the civil penalties herein authorized. Such rules, which shall not be subject to the promulgation and hearing requirements of the state administrative procedure act, shall provide for due process procedural mechanisms substantially similar to those set forth in such article three but such mechanisms need not be identical in terms or scope. Assessment of a civil penalty shall be final unless modified, suspended or vacated within thirty days of imposition, with respect to the assessment of such penalty, or unless such denial of request is reversed within such time period, and upon becoming final shall be subject to review at the instance of the affected reporting individuals in a proceeding commenced against the legislative ethics commission, pursuant to article seventy-eight of the civil practice law and rules.

§ 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2019.