



Illinois Ethics Matters

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Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor

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Recent News

- The OEIG is pleased to announce that **Jeffrey Freeman** began as an Assistant Inspector General in its Chicago office, and that **Ashley Noblet** began as an Investigator in its Springfield office.
- OEIG managers will be presenting at the Executive Ethics Commission's annual Ethics Officer Conference on **April 16, 2019**, on topics including the revolving door prohibitions, training, hiring and employment monitoring, and interacting with the OEIG. The registration deadline for the conference is March 15, 2019.

OEIG Initiates Ethics Act Legislation



The OEIG is working with legislators on bills amending the Ethics Act to clarify important parts of the law.

Senate Bill 1234 and House Bill 2536 would amend the Ethics Act to clarify that State vendors may be penalized for their violations of the Ethics Act's ban on improper gifts. Currently, the Ethics Act is silent on the Executive Ethics Commission's jurisdiction over vendors and others doing business with the State.

Senate Bill 1235 and House Bill 2535 would amend the Ethics Act to allow the OEIG to directly disclose reports and file information to an agency head when the OEIG determines it is necessary, such as when there is an imminent risk to public safety. The Ethics Act currently does not expressly permit disclosure to an agency head short of a founded report.

Lastly, **Senate Bill 1233 and House Bill 2537** clarify two aspects of the revolving door prohibition. First, the bills would modify the revolving door prohibition to make it clear that it applies to individuals who participate personally and substantially in fiscal decisions during the life of a contract, rather than simply the award of a contract. Second, the bills would ensure that the functional duties, not job titles, would govern which high-level employees are prohibited from accepting certain post-State employment.

Senator Heather Steans is the sponsor of these bills in the Senate, and Representative Fred Crespo is the sponsor of these bills in the House.

OEIG Finds Improper Outside Employment

The Executive Ethics Commission recently released an OEIG founded report regarding improper outside employment by a trainer at the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR).

The OEIG investigation revealed Ebonie Davis had performed a training in 2016 for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office as an independent contractor without obtaining approval for secondary employment as required.

As a result of the OEIG investigation, IDHR initiated disciplinary proceedings against Ms. Davis, and Ms. Davis ultimately served an eight-day suspension. The OEIG also recommended that IDHR remind all employees of the policies and procedures related to secondary employment. In response, IDHR revised its policy to, among other things, provide a definition and examples of outside employment.

A copy of the report, *In re: Ebonie Davis (Case #17-00724)*, is available on the OEIG website.