



Tomorrow's Doctors, Tomorrow's Cures®



PROJECT MEDICAL EDUCATION

Association of American Medical Colleges

New House and Senate Gift Rules:

Summary Guidelines for AAMC's Project Medical Education

	Private, Non-Profit Medical School ¹	Public Medical School or Public Teaching Hospital ²	Private, Non-Profit Teaching Hospital	Private, For-Profit Teaching Hospital
Long-Distance Travel (e.g. airfare)	<p>Permitted if pre-approved.</p> <p>For <i>Senators and Senate staff</i>, the trip must not have been planned, organized or arranged by or at the request of a registered lobbyist. Moreover, no registered lobbyist may accompany the Senator or employee <i>at any point</i> throughout the trip.</p>	<p>Permitted</p>	<p>House: Permitted if hospital does not employ or retain lobbyists. However, if hospital does employ or retain lobbyists, PME is also permitted if (1) PME is a “one-day event,” (2) House Member or staffer is not accompanied <i>on any segment</i>³ by a registered lobbyist, and (3) no registered lobbyist had more than a de minimis role in planning, organization, request, or arrangement of trip.</p> <p>Senate: Permitted if hospital does not employ or retain lobbyists. Also permitted if (1) no registered lobbyist had more than a de minimis role in the planning, organization, request, or arrangement of the trip and (2) the Senator or staffer is not accompanied by a registered lobbyist <i>at any point</i>⁴ throughout the trip. Finally, permitted if (1) the trip is a “one-day event,” (2) no registered lobbyist had more than a de minimis role in the planning, organization, request, or arrangement of the trip, and (3) the Senator or staffer is not accompanied by a registered lobbyist <i>on any segment</i> of the trip.</p> <p>House and Senate: Pre-approval always required.</p>	<p>House: Permitted if hospital does not employ or retain lobbyists. However, if hospital does employ or retain lobbyists, PME is also permitted if (1) PME is a “one-day event,” (2) House Member or staff is not accompanied <i>on any segment</i> by a registered lobbyist, and (3) no registered lobbyist had more than a de minimis role in planning, organization, request, or arrangement of trip.</p> <p>Senate: Permitted if hospital does not employ or retain lobbyists. Also permitted if (1) the trip is a “one-day event,” (2) no registered lobbyist had more than a de minimis role in the planning, organization, request, or arrangement of the trip, and (3) Senator or staffer is not accompanied by a registered lobbyist <i>on any segment</i> of the trip.</p> <p>House and Senate: Pre-approval always required.</p>

¹This guidance memorandum focuses exclusively on the party reimbursing the Member or staffer for costs associated with the event. If a PME is hosted by a teaching hospital, but the Member or staffer receives reimbursement from a medical school that is affiliated with the hospital, then the section of this guidance memorandum addressing schools of medicine should be consulted, not the section on teaching hospitals. Of course, if the medical school was itself reimbursed by the teaching hospital, then the rules applicable to teaching hospitals would apply.

²“Teaching hospitals,” as used herein, refers to hospitals that are affiliated with a university but which are separate, and legally distinct, from the university. Hospitals that partner with a university to offer residency programs (including hospitals that share faculty, chiefs of service, and department chairs with universities) but which are not themselves part of the university fall under this category.

³The prohibition on lobbyist accompaniment on “any segment” of a trip means that a lobbyist cannot travel with any Member or staffer on any leg of the trip, but can be present at the event (i.e., reception, class, or lunch) itself.

⁴The prohibitions discussed on lobbyist accompaniment “at any point” on the trip prohibit the lobbyist from traveling with the Member or staffer and accompanying the Member or staffer at the event itself.



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Local Travel	See analysis for long-distance travel. Also permissible if PME is a “widely-attended event.”	Permitted	See analysis for long-distance travel. Also permissible if PME is a “widely-attended event.”	See analysis for long-distance travel. Also permissible if PME is a “widely-attended event.”
Meals	See analysis for long-distance travel. No more than 3 days of meals for Senate and staff and 4 days for House. Also permissible if PME is a “widely-attended event.”	Permitted	See analysis for long-distance travel. No more than 3 days of meals for Senate and 4 days of meals for House. Also permitted if PME is a “widely-attended event.”	See analysis for long-distance travel. No more than 3 days of meals for Senate and 4 days of meals for House. Also permitted if PME is a “widely-attended event.”
Lodging	See analysis for long-distance travel. No more than 3 days lodging for Senate and 4 days lodging for House.	Permitted	See analysis for long-distance travel. No more than 3 days lodging for Senate and 4 days lodging for House.	See analysis for long-distance travel. No more than 3 days lodging for Senate and 4 days lodging for House.
Gifts	Only if they qualify as items of “nominal value” or “commemorative items.” ⁵	Permitted	Only if they qualify as items of “nominal value” or “commemorative items.”	Only if they qualify as items of “nominal value” or “commemorative items.”

⁵The gift restrictions do not apply to “an item of nominal value such as a greeting card, baseball cap, or a T-shirt.” House R. XXV(5)(a)(3)(W); see also Senate R. XXXV(1)(c)(23) (referring to “items of little intrinsic worth”). In the House, an item is generally of nominal value if its value does not exceed \$10. Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives on Gifts and Travel, 106th Congress, 2nd Session (April 2000). The Senate guidance does not give a dollar value but instructs individuals to use “reasonable discretion” and give “due regard to the kind of items enumerated in the exception.” Senate Ethics Manual, 108th Congress, 1st Session (2003). Additionally, the gift restrictions recognize an exception for items that are “substantially commemorative in nature and that [are] intended for presentation.” House R. XXV(5)(a)(3)(S); Senate R. XXXV(1)(c)(20). The House guidance on “commemorative items” notes that an “in-person presentation of the item to the Member or staff person” is required. Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives on Gifts and Travel, 106th Congress, 2nd Session (April 2000). The House guidance also notes that an “item that is inscribed or engraved with the Member’s name, the name of the presenting organization, and the date of the presentation will likely be deemed commemorative in nature” as long as it does not “have significant utilitarian or artistic value.” Id.