
2005 Wis Eth Bd 10
MEALS, LODGING, TRAVEL AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Ethics Board advises that state agency may accept funds from private sources to be used to reimburse a state official's travel expenses incurred by the official while engaged in official duties.

¶1 Your proposal to raise funds for a state agency to be used to reimburse expenses incurred in connection with the state official's duties is consistent with Wisconsin's Code of Ethics for State Public Officials. The Ethics Code specifically provides that an official may receive and retain reimbursement of costs that were incurred on behalf of the state and primarily for the benefit of the state and not for private benefit, §19.56 (3) (c), *Wisconsin Statutes*. Moreover, the establishment of a private fund to be used for this purpose does not conflict with any law the Ethics Board administers. However, monies from the fund should be paid to the state official's agency for use as the agency determines, and not directly to the official. The agency may choose to use some or all of the funds to reimburse the official for actual incurred expenses, but should not pay a fixed stipend that is without relation to actual expenses.

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