

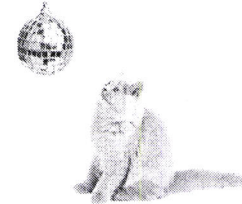
## ETHICS REPORTER

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Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission  
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### **Changes strengthen Kentucky's Ethics Law; Media & pundits yawn, look for shiny objects**



Legislation adopted in the 2014 Kentucky General Assembly gives Kentucky the strongest and most comprehensive legislative ethics law in the United States.

The new legislation (House Bill 28) includes a “no cup of coffee” provision, a ban on certain in-session campaign contributions, and a ban on interest groups paying for legislators’ travel. See: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/14rs/HB28.htm>

By following the guidelines set forth in the Code of Legislative Ethics in 1993, Kentucky legislators and lobbyists have for over 20 years avoided the law enforcement investigations, indictments, trials, and prison terms that have plagued so many state legislatures around the nation, including six of the seven states surrounding Kentucky.

When the ethics law amendments take effect in mid-July, Kentucky will be the only state with all of the following provisions in its legislative ethics code:

- A year-round ban on lobbyist campaign contributions to legislators and legislative candidates;
- A ban on campaign contributions from PACs and employers of lobbyists to legislators and candidates during legislative sessions;
- A “no cup of coffee” law, prohibiting lobbyists and employers from spending any money on food and beverages for individual legislators, candidates, and their immediate family members;
- A prohibition on lobbyists and their employers giving anything of value to a legislator, candidate, or the spouse or child of a legislator or candidate;
- A ban on lobbyists and employers paying for out-of-state transportation or lodging expenses for legislators;
- A ban on lobbyists soliciting, controlling, or delivering (“bundling”) campaign contributions for legislators or candidates;