

CONNECTICUT STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
30 TRINITY STREET  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06115



Marilyn P. Seichter, *Chairwoman*  
George S. Writer, Jr., *Vice-Chairman*  
James F. English  
John M. Lupton  
Rev. Thomas J. Lynch  
Robert W. MacGregor  
Gerard M. Peterson

ADVISORY OPINION NUMBER 78-1

Appearances of a Public Official Before the  
State Agencies Listed in Section 6(d), Public Act Number 77-600

A State Representative, who practices law as a profession, states that he is required to appear before certain state agencies: the State Liquor Control Commission, Motor Vehicle Department, etc. He has asked the State Ethics Commission whether such practice would be in violation of the code of ethics for legislators.

A member of the General Assembly is a "public official" as defined in section 1(j) of the code of ethics for public officials, Public Act Number 77-600. Section 6(d) of that Act provides:

"No public official...shall agree to accept, or be in partnership with or a member of a professional corporation which partnership or professional corporation agrees to accept, any employment, fee or other thing of value, or portion thereof, in consideration of his appearing, agreeing to appear, or taking any other action on behalf of another person before the state banking commission, the claims commissioner, the liquor control commission, the department of motor vehicles, the state insurance purchasing board, the department of environmental protection, the commission on special revenue or the Connecticut real estate commission; provided this shall not prohibit any such person from making inquiry for information on behalf of another before any of said commissions if no fee or reward is given or promised in consequence thereof."

It is clear, therefore, that an appearance by a legislator, in a representative capacity and on a compensated basis, before the Connecticut Liquor Control Commission, Department of Motor Vehicles, or other agency listed in section 6(d) above, would violate the code of ethics applicable to legislators.

By order of the State Ethics Commission:

  
Marilyn P. A. Seichter  
Chairwoman, State Ethics Commission

Dated Feb. 17, 1978