



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

RETIREMENT SECURITY BOARD

CO-CHAIRS: STATE COMPTROLLER KEVIN LEMBO & STATE TREASURER DENISE NAPPIER

Staff Report to CRSB

Re: Fundraising and Ethics

September 3, 2014 CRSB Meeting

Questions posed to the Office of State Ethics:

1. May the Comptroller and/or Treasurer, themselves or by the members of their respective offices, solicit funds for the purpose of funding the operations of the Connecticut Retirement Security Board?
2. May the members of the Board themselves solicit funds for the purpose of funding the operations of the Board?

The funding authority in the statute is as follows:

“The Connecticut Retirement Security Board may accept and receive any bequest, devise or gift of money or personal property, and may hold and use such money or property for the purposes, if any, specified in connection with such bequest, devise or gift. The board may apply for grants or financial assistance from any person, group of persons or corporation or from any agency of the state or of the United States. Any such grants or financial assistance shall be deposited in an account established by the State Comptroller as a separate, non-lapsing account within the General Fund, and shall be utilized to support the activities of the board as set forth in sections 181 to 185, inclusive.” Public Act 14-217 § 183.”

Response:

“The Comptroller, Treasurer, their staff and/or members of the Retirement Security Board may solicit funds for the purpose of funding the operations of the Connecticut Retirement Security Board. There is nothing in the Code of Ethics that would prohibit such solicitations. Anything given for the purpose of funding the operations of the Connecticut Retirement Security Board will be considered a “gift to the state” pursuant to General Statutes § 1-79 (5) (E), which excludes from the term “gift” the following: “Goods or services (i) that are provided to a state agency or quasi-public agency (I) for use on state or quasi-public agency property, or (II) that support an event or the participation by a public official or state employee at an event, and (ii) that facilitate state or quasi-public agency action or functions....” Obviously, any personal gifts that do not further state action functions would not be permissible under this exception.”