

# United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS  
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 220  
SECOND AND CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6425

September 25, 2007

Dear Colleague:

The "Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007" was signed into law on September 14, 2007. We know that you and your staff may have questions about the resulting changes to the Senate Ethics Rules, and we want to do everything we can to help.

This week, the Ethics Committee will begin issuing a series of brief fact sheets about changes to the Senate Rules. The first group of these—focusing on rules that go into effect immediately—are attached. The next group that we'll send will explain changes going into effect in the coming months, including new private-travel restrictions. All of these fact sheets will be available on [ethics.senate.gov](http://ethics.senate.gov).

In the near future, the Ethics Committee will offer initial training sessions highlighting the new rules. Within 50 days, the Committee will provide more comprehensive guidance and begin mandatory training for all Members, officers, and employees.

For your information, below is a timeline that highlights when many of the key rule changes go into effect.

## **New Ethics Rules That Go into Effect Immediately (see attached)**

- New Gifts Rule barring gifts from lobbyists, agents of foreign principals, or private entities that employ or retain them
- New Gifts Rule Exception for a "Constituent Event"
- Paying for Sports and Entertainment Tickets
- Negotiations for Future Employment by Members and Senior Staff
- Influencing Hiring Decisions by Members
- Lobbying by Spouses and Immediate Family Members of Members

## **New Rules That Go into Effect 60-90 Days After the Law's Enactment**


- Privately-Sponsored Travel
- Private Plane Travel
- Mandatory Ethics Training


## **New Rules That Go into Effect on the Adjournment Date of the First Session of the 110th Congress or December 31, 2007 (whichever is earlier)**

- Post- Employment Lobbying Restrictions for Members and Senior Staff

If you need specific advice and guidance about the new Senate Rules, please call the Ethics Committee at (202) 224-2981.

Sincerely,

  
Barbara Boxer  
Chairman

  
John Cornyn  
Vice Chairman