**OPINION**

**(OLEC 95-9)**

**April 25, 1995**

**QUESTIONS PRESENTED:**

 What are the restrictions on the acceptance of travel expenses and on honorariums or a fee paid to a member of the Legislature who travels out of state to speak to a professional association not registered with the Commission? The Legislator is a member of the Association. What reporting requirements are involved?

**DISCUSSION:**

 In OLEC 93-57, the Commission advised that "Members of the General Assembly may attend workshops related to their employment in the private sector without any reporting requirements under the Code of Ethics. Approval by the Legislative Research Commission for out of state travel connected with such a workshop would not be required." In OLEC 94-37, the Commission advised that "Members of the General Assembly may accept reimbursement for itemized expenses related to attending meetings associated exclusively with their private sector employment and unrelated to their position as a legislator."

 As to acceptance of an honorarium, the Commission advised in OLEC 93-26 that "The Code of Ethics prohibits a member of the General Assembly from accepting an honorarium in connection with an appearance, speech, or article related to his official duties."

**OPINION:**

 Members of the General Assembly may accept travel expenses and an honorarium or speaking fee related to attending meetings associated exclusively with their private sector employment and unrelated to their position as a Legislator. The source of income for an honorarium or speaking fee would be required to be listed on the Legislator's annual financial disclosure form.