

political subdivisions or whatever, you have a different situation because there is a business relationship being established between a person who makes law, formulates policy and dealing with the agencies for which he or she formulates the policy, makes the law and so forth. But when it comes to voting a state Legislature is different from any other ruling or governing entity in this country. The state Legislature, to use the example that I have used before, is like the bar of a dumbbell. On one end is a weight, on the other end is an equal weight. The bar in the middle holds the two together. So if you keep that analogy in mind, you remember that the federal government is a government of delegated powers. The people supposedly granted powers to the federal government so the federal government has only those powers that were granted to it by the people. The subdivisions below the state level exercise only such powers as the state Legislature grants or allows them to utilize. So the power to the federal government and to the political subdivisions flows from the state. The state Legislature is the only supreme legislating authority in this country. The only limitation on a state legislature is its Constitution and its Constitution does not grant it power, it limits the power. So anything not limited in the Constitution to a state legislature, the state legislature has the power to do. Such being the case, senators in a state legislature are in a unique position as far as the governing in this country is concerned and I think it would be impossible to draft a bill or a provision by an agency which would properly handle or even describe what a conflict of interest would be for a senator when it comes to voting. That is the determination that the senator has to make and it is one which his or her constituents will review and determine whether they agree with it or not. If they disagree and the disagreement is serious enough, they will express how they feel at the polls. For myself, I will not vote to stop any senator from voting on any issue in this body. I might be critical, but this is a form where we are to engage in vigorous, open, unlimited discussion. So, if a senator were to offer a bill that would benefit himself or herself directly, even if the Legislature enacted it, the Supreme Court would strike it down as special legislation. So, other than besmirching the image of the Legislature for knowingly passing such a bill and the individual who offered it, no real damage would have been done to anybody because there is a check on the activities of the Legislature in the form of court decisions.