

Hatch Act/Political Activity

The Hatch Act restricts Executive Branch employees in any agency of State government whose principal employment is in connection with an activity financed, in whole or in part by federal loans or grants from being a candidate in any partisan contested election.

Please do not assume that either your job or your political activities are not subject to the Hatch Act. Should this Act apply to you, we recommend you seek an advisory opinion from the United States Office of Special Counsel.

In addition, Rhode Island General Laws contain prohibitions on classified employees from seeking the nomination of or being a candidate for any elective State Office and also contain prohibitions on classified employees regarding running for partisan political office, campaigning for public officials during working hours and soliciting political contributions for or being solicited for political campaigns. Violations of these statutes can result in demotion or dismissal.

Refer to the pamphlet entitled, "Political Activity and the State and Local Employee" which can be found on the Division of Human Resources website at <http://www.hr.ri.gov> or by contacting your human resources office.

