

Calif. lawmakers propose limits on gifts

By Laurel Rosenhall, Sacramento Bee

Following a spate of ethical problems at the Capitol, a group of California lawmakers Thursday proposed a set of bills they say will change the way they do business.

In recent months, two senators have taken leaves of absence to fight criminal charges, and two Sacramento lobbying firms paid record-setting fines for violating lobbying laws.

Senate Democrats, saying the events had prompted their action, unveiled proposals to ban campaign fundraising parties at the homes of registered lobbyists, cap gifts for legislators at \$200 apiece and specifically prevent them from getting free tickets to concerts, sporting events and amusement parks.

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