

Subject Regulation of lobbyists

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Overview

This bill provides a number of miscellaneous changes and updates to the laws governing reporting by lobbyists and lobbyist principals.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Designated lobbyist. Defines the term “designated lobbyist.” This is a new term used later in the bill.
2	General lobbying category. Defines the term “general lobbying category.” This is a new term used later in the bill.
3	Legislative action. Defines the term “legislative action.” This term is used later in the bill.
4	Lobbyist. Increases the threshold for lobbyist registration for individuals who spend personal funds on advocacy. The current law defines an individual as a “lobbyist” if they spend more than \$250 per year on these activities. This section raises that threshold to \$3,000 per year.
5	Official action of metropolitan governmental units. Defines the phrase “official action of metropolitan governmental units.” This term is used later in the bill.
6	Specific subject of interest. Defines the phrase “specific subject of interest.” This term is used later in the bill.

Section	Description
7	<p>Changes and corrections.</p> <p>Provides that the existing procedures governing the need for a lobbyist to update a report submitted to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board due to a material change, including the deadline and a penalty for those who fail to file, applies in situations where the board requests more detailed information about a specific subject of interest disclosed on a lobbyist report. Later sections of this bill require this disclosure.</p>
8	<p>Form.</p> <p>Updates the lobbyist registration form to require disclosure of specific topic categories, rather than a general description of subjects, on which a lobbyist expects to work. These topic categories will be designated by the board.</p> <p>Other conforming and technical changes are also provided.</p>
9	<p>General lobbying categories.</p> <p>Requires the board to establish a list of general lobbying categories, and update it periodically based on public comment. Administrative rulemaking procedures do not apply to the creation of this list.</p>
10	<p>Information to lobbyist.</p> <p>Provides grammatical and other technical updates to the section of law governing the deadline for an entity or lobbyist overseeing the work of another lobbyist to provide the necessary information to that lobbyist for use in their reporting to the board.</p>
11	<p>Content.</p> <p>Updates and expands the content requirements for lobbyist reports to the board.</p> <p>Among the new requirements for reporting, a lobbyist must disclose specific subject of interest for entities that the lobbyist represents; more specific information on lobbying involving administrative actions of an agency; lobbying of metropolitan governmental units; and specific information regarding advocacy to the Public Utilities Commission. For legislative lobbying, the lobbyist must report general lobbying categories and up to four specific subjects of interest on which the lobbyist worked. Additional details governing this reporting are provided.</p> <p>This section also newly requires the lobbyist to report certain expenses related to paid advertising used for the purpose of urging members of the public to contact public or local officials to influence action, if the expenses exceed \$2,000.</p>

Section	Description
12	<p>Principal reports.</p> <p>Updates and expands the content requirements for reporting by lobbyist principals.</p> <p>Among the new requirements is a lower threshold for determining the dollar amount of spending that must be reported (rounded to the nearest \$10,000, rather than the nearest \$20,000). For each type of lobbying reported, this section also provides a number of additional specific items that must be included or itemized in the principal's report.</p>
13	<p>Reporting by multiple lobbyists representing the same entity.</p> <p>Provides that an entity that is represented by more than one lobbyist may only have one "designated lobbyist" at any given time. A definition of "designated lobbyist" is provided earlier in the bill. The designated lobbyist is the lobbyist responsible for reporting lobbying disbursements and activity of the entity a lobbyist represents.</p>
14	<p>Repealer.</p> <p>Repeals an existing administrative rule providing specific categories for lobbyist disbursements. This rule is effectively superseded by the new structure and requirements provided in this bill.</p>



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