

CCS SS HCS HB 1900 -- ETHICS

This bill changes the laws regarding lobbyist reporting requirements and campaign contribution disclosures for public officials. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires "elected local government official lobbyists," defined as persons specifically employed to influence actions by the officials of specified political subdivisions with operating budgets of over \$10 million, to register in the same manner as other lobbyists and provide details of their expenditures according to specific criteria;

(2) Prohibits lobbyists from paying for out-of-state travel for members of the General Assembly or their staff, spouses, or dependent children unless the expenditure is approved by the Administration and Accounts Committee of the House of Representatives or the Administration Committee of the Senate;

(3) Requires lobbyists to include expenditures for all members of either a majority or minority caucus of the General Assembly in their monthly reports to the Missouri Ethics Commission and requires that expenditures not made to the entire House of Representatives, Senate, or majority and minority caucuses be attributed to individual legislators;

(4) Revises the procedures for filing complaints under Section 105.957, RSMo, involving lobbying, financial interest disclosure, and campaign finance disclosure and specifies that those filing false complaints may be subject to civil litigation;

(5) Requires the executive director of the commission to notify candidates and the treasurer of a campaign committee of the failure to file campaign disclosure reports and the fines that will be assessed. Notice will no longer be required for deputy treasurers;

(6) Prohibits individuals who have been convicted of or have pled guilty to a felony from holding elective office and prevents anyone who owes state personal income or property taxes or is a past or present corporate officer of a fee office that owes taxes from running for office unless the taxes are currently in dispute or paid within a specified period of time;

(7) Prohibits the formation of candidate committees for the offices of Speaker of the House of Representatives and President Pro Tem of the Senate and requires candidate committees to be formed 60 days prior to an election;

(8) Removes the maximum contribution limits per election year

for most statewide elected offices by repealing parts of Section 130.032 and prohibits any candidate for statewide office, except candidates for a special election, from accepting campaign contributions during the legislative session;

(9) Prohibits the donation of money by political party committees to candidate committees, continuing committees, or other political party committees and requires the disclosure of campaign contributions from political, campaign, candidate, or continuing committees in the financial interest statements required by Section 105.485;

(10) Requires disclosure reports to be electronically filed with the commission;

(11) Requires the commission to post on its web site the expenditures for and against candidates that are required to be disclosed under Sections 130.041 and 130.050;

(12) Revises certain deadlines for filing disclosure reports under Sections 130.046 and 130.050;

(13) Prohibits the filing of a complaint under Section 130.054 with the commission within 15 days of a primary or general election in which the candidate being accused of a campaign finance or disclosure violation is running for office; and

(14) Requires the commission by January 1, 2007, to issue a report to the General Assembly on its recommendations for regulating political telephone solicitations.

The bill becomes effective January 1, 2007.