

HB 1986 -- Lobbyist Requirements

Sponsor: Stevenson

This bill changes the laws regarding the reporting requirements for lobbyists. Lobbyists will be prohibited from paying the travel expenses for any member of the General Assembly, their spouses or children, or legislative staff. There is an exception for car pooling arrangements and travel to or from meetings, social events, or meals less than 50 miles away.

When filing a statement of registration with the Missouri Ethics Commission as required by Section 105.473, RSMo, lobbyists must include:

- (1) Their own telephone number;
- (2) The name, address, and telephone number of their client;
- (3) A description of the general subjects on which the lobbyist expects to work; and
- (4) The name of the person, organization, or legislative body before which the lobbyist expects to practice.

A separate statement of registration will be required for each client. Lobbyists must notify the commission when they or their employees are no longer eligible to lobby on behalf of a client. Attorney client privilege cannot be invoked to evade the reporting requirements.

The commission is authorized to conduct random audits to ensure compliance with the reporting requirements and to establish uniform rules for audits. The production of evidence relevant to verification of the lobbyist reports may be required. The commission will use an outside accounting firm and is not permitted to know the identity of lobbyists or clients prior to their random selection. If there is reason to believe that an audited report is erroneous, the commission may require the production of documents and subpoena witnesses in order to investigate the accuracy of the audited report.

The commission will have jurisdiction over public officials, lobbyists, and candidates during their time of service and for a period of one year after the termination of service or candidacy.