

HB 1872 -- Fair Influence in Government Act

Sponsor: Schoeller

This bill establishes the Fair Influence in Government Act which prohibits the use of public funds for lobbying purposes. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Prohibits state appropriated funds and moneys collected from local taxes from being used to influence the passage or defeat of any legislative measure or to hire a lobbyist;
- (2) Prohibits any public resources from being used to pay the membership dues of a lobbyist;
- (3) Specifies that any person who accepts public funds as compensation for lobbying in violation of the provisions of the bill may be prohibited from registering as a legislative lobbyist for a period of up to two years;
- (4) Allows an individual the right to communicate with public officials and to use lobbyists for monitoring legislation and testifying for informational purposes only; and
- (5) Specifies that any state agency, political subdivision, or private entity violating the provisions of the bill will be subject to a fine of between \$1,000 and \$5,000.