

HCS HBs 1258 & 1267 -- ETHICS

SPONSOR: Rowden

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 11 to 1.

This bill changes laws regarding ethics. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Prohibits any member of the General Assembly, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, or State Auditor from soliciting any registered lobbyist for any position with a hiring date beginning after he or she is no longer an elected official, whether compensated or not, while he or she holds office;

(2) Prohibits the Governor or any person acting on behalf of the Governor from making any offer or promise to confer an appointment to any board, commission, committee, council, county office, department directorship, fee office, judgeship, or any other position, to any member of the General Assembly in exchange for the member's official vote on any public matter, which is the crime of bribery of a public servant;

(3) Specifies that any member of the General Assembly who accepts or agrees to accept an offer or promise to confer an appointment to any board, commission, committee, council, county office, department directorship, fee office, judgeship, or any other position, from the Governor or any person acting on behalf of the Governor in exchange for the member's official vote on any public matter, is guilty of the crime of acceding to corruption under Section 576.020, RSMo;

(4) Requires, within 10 days of submission of an appointment letter to the Secretary of State for the appointment of any person to a board or commission, the Governor to deliver to the President Pro Tem of the Senate a list of any political contributions and expenditures made by the appointee within the previous four years;

(5) Specifies any individual item, service, or incidental fee given to any individual public official on one calendar day valued at less than nine dollars outside of a legislative committee is not an expenditure for the purposes of Section 105.463;

(6) Prohibits any lobbyist from making a single expenditure of more than \$50 for a public official or spending more than \$750 on a public official quarterly;

(7) Requires an itemized listing of expenditures made for members of committees meeting outside of the Capitol building by lobbyists and lobbyist principals in their currently required monthly disclosure reports to the Missouri Ethics Commission under Section 105.473;

(8) Requires, within 120 days of taking office, appointment, or employment, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, Attorney General, executive department directors, acting directors, and members of the General Assembly to complete four hours of ethics training that addresses, at a minimum, ethics laws in these provisions and Chapters 130 and 576;

(9) Requires the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, Attorney General, executive department directors, acting directors, and members of the General Assembly to complete specified ethics training requirements every two years;

(10) Specifies that if any official or member of the General Assembly does not complete these requirements within 120 days of taking office, appointment, or employment, the Missouri Ethics Commission must, in writing, notify the individual of the individual's noncompliance;

(11) Specifies that any official or member of the General Assembly who fails to complete these requirements within 30 days of receiving written notice of noncompliance must be assessed a fee of \$10 for each day completion is overdue;

(12) Requires the Ethics Commission to list the name of any official or member of the General Assembly who is assessed a fee under these provisions on its website, and his or her name must remain on the website until he or she is in compliance with this section;

(13) Requires the Ethics Commission to offer the training required in this section, and to promulgate rules establishing format and minimum course content;

(14) Prohibits any expenditure, except for food, to be made on behalf of any public official for in-state or out-of-state travel or lodging in excess of the allowable state per diem travel expenses established by the Office of Administration;

(15) Prohibits any gubernatorial appointee from making any contribution to or expenditure for the Governor or the Governor's candidate committee; and

(16) Repeals certain non-effective statutes that were declared unconstitutional.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill ensures that all citizens and organizations, no matter what their means, have an equal say in government.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Rowden.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.