HB 1440 -- LOBBYING AND CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

SPONSOR: Dunn

This bill changes the laws regarding lobbying and campaign disclosure. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Revises the definition of "legislative lobbyist" as it applies under Chapter 105, RSMo, by removing certain exceptions and specifies that a legislative lobbyist is any person who acts in the ordinary course of employment to influence legislation whether the work is occasional in nature or it is the primary purpose of his or her employment (Section 105.470);

(2) Repeals the provisions allowing a lobbyist to report the total of all expenditures, instead of individually, for an occasion provided to all members of the House of Representatives or Senate; all members of a joint committee of the General Assembly or a standing committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate; or all members of a caucus of the majority or minority party of the House of Representatives or Senate when they are invited in writing (Section 105.473.3);

(3) Requires any tangible or intangible item, service, or thing of value exceeding \$15 that is transferred to or on behalf of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, State Auditor, any member of the General Assembly, or any of the official's staff, employees, spouse, or dependent children to be electronically reported to the commission by the official within 24 hours. The report must be filed in accordance with the standards established by the Missouri Ethics Commission for electronic filing. Each chamber of the General Assembly must conspicuously post the contents of the reports on its website (Section 105.473.4);

(4) Repeals provisions that were doubly enacted because of the judicial invalidation of SB 844 passed in 2010 (Sections 105.485, 105.955, 130.011, and 130.044);

(5) Requires a contribution exceeding \$100 from a group of individuals; corporation; partnership; committee; proprietorship; joint venture; any department, agency, board, institution, or other entity of the state or any of its political subdivisions; union; labor organization; trade or professional or business association, association; political party or any executive committee thereof; or any other club or organization however constituted or any officer or employee of the entity acting in the person's official capacity to be reported by the responsible party for the contribution on disclosure reports required under Section 105.041. A "responsible party" is defined as an individual contacted by a candidate, committee, or agent thereof for the purpose of soliciting a contribution from a group of individuals, corporation, partnership, committee, proprietorship, joint venture, any department, agency, board, institution, or other entity of the state or any of its political subdivisions, union, labor organization, trade or professional or business association, association, political party, or any executive committee thereof, or any other club or organization however constituted or any officer or employee of the entity acting in the person's official capacity. In the case of a contribution received absent a solicitation by a candidate, committee, or agent thereof, the highest-ranking individual officer, executive, or director of the group of individuals, corporation, partnership, committee, proprietorship, joint venture, department, agency, board, institution, or other entity of the state or any of its political subdivisions, union, labor organization, trade or professional or business association, association, political party or any executive committee thereof, or any other club or organization however constituted making the contribution is the responsible party (Section 130.011(28));

(6) Requires specified committees to report additional information about contributions under Section 105.041, including the responsible party for the contribution, the five largest contributors to that committee in the previous filing period, and the aggregate amount contributed to that committee by each contributor in the current election cycle (Section 130.041);

(7) Changes, from an amount which exceeds \$5,000 to an amount which exceeds \$2,000, when a contribution from an individual or committee who is required to electronically report to the commission must be electronically reported to the commission within 48 hours of receipt of the contribution (Section 130.044.1); and

(8) Requires any member of the General Assembly or any candidate for one of the offices or his or her campaign committee to electronically report any contribution over \$500 within 48 hours to the commission any time when legislation from the regular legislative session awaits gubernatorial action (Section 130.044.2).