

HB 1979 -- REGISTERED LOBBYISTS

SPONSOR: Rowden

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Government Oversight and Accountability by a vote of 7 to 1.

This bill prohibits statewide officials, members of the General Assembly, and appointed officials whose appointments are subject to Senate confirmation from registering as lobbyists after vacating their office until one full session of the General Assembly has convened and adjourned. The bill will be effective for statewide office holders except the auditor, members of the General Assembly, and appointees who are elected after January 01, 2016, and for a State Auditor elected after January 01, 2018.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will set a "cooling off period" of one session of the General Assembly before a member of the General Assembly can register as a lobbyist. The bill is designed to address legal concerns and is an attempt to allow for former legislators to lobby after a reasonable period of time.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rowden and Missouri Alliance For Freedom.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.