

## HB 1303 -- LOBBYIST EXPENDITURES

SPONSOR: Alferman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules-Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 11 to 1.

This bill changes lobbying regulations by banning expenditures made by lobbyists to state public officials and removing reporting requirements no longer necessary because of this general ban on expenditures. The bill specifies that lobbyists can still make expenditures for events when all members of the General Assembly or all statewide officials are invited at least 72 hours prior to the event. This bill modifies certain exceptions to the definition of expenditures and exempts customary gifts, flowers, and plants.

This bill is similar to HB 60 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill prohibits lobbyist gifts to state public officials. It does make one exception for events to which all state public officials are invited in order to allow members of grass roots and other organizations to interact with legislators. This bill is the same as HB 60 (2017) which was perfected in the House.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Alferman.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say there is no cure for an official if he or she, or his or her family, or staff inadvertently violates the provisions of this bill. Even if the state official attempted to reimburse the lobbyist when the official realized the error, he or she could still be subject to a penalty under this bill.

Testifying on the bill was Michael Reid.