

HCS HB 1199 -- LOBBYISTS

SPONSOR: Mayhew

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill clarifies that legislative liaisons who communicate between agencies, departments, or political subdivisions of the state and members of the General Assembly need not register as lobbyists and do not act as paid lobbyists when sponsoring events by agencies, departments, political subdivisions, or educational institutions. It also defines a "lobbyist principal" as an entity that can hire or fire or pay a lobbyist and that has authority to direct the lobbyist's lobbying activities on behalf of the lobbyist principal.

The receipt of gifts under \$5 will be proven by receipts provided by the person making such gifts to a member of the General Assembly or employee thereof.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill clarifies the definition of lobbyist and lobbyist principal so that standard state agency representatives may function in their current fashion. It will prevent vague application of campaign finance rules outside of their intended scope.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Mayhew.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that it may be overboard in some areas by allowing most local government lobbyists to avoid registration, and may need to clarify if those serving in multiple roles should register as a lobbyist.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri Society of Governmental Consultants; and Wayne Lee.