

HB 188 -- ETHICS

SPONSOR: Rowden

This bill modifies provisions dealing with ethics and lobbying. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Prohibits any member of the General Assembly from registering as a lobbyist for a period of two years after they leave office;

(2) Prohibits any member of the General Assembly and statewide elected official from soliciting a registered lobbyist for a position that becomes available after the member or elected official leaves office;

(3) Expands the existing crimes of bribery of a public official and acceding to corruption by explicitly prohibiting the offer or the acceptance of various positions made by the Governor to a member of the General Assembly in exchange for an official vote;

(4) Prohibits acceptance of lobbyist gifts to members of the General Assembly and their staff, spouses, and dependant children unless a gift is given generally to all members of the General Assembly or to a caucus thereof;

(5) Requires an appointee subject to Senate confirmation to provide the Governor and Senate with a list of political expenditures and contributions made within the last four years. The list must be provided within 10 days of the submission of the appointment letter to the Secretary of State's office;

(6) Modifies the definition of lobbyist compensation by a lobbyist principal or direct principal to include specified iterations of payment to the lobbyist;

(7) Expands the definition of a committee under Chapter 130, RSMo, to include organizations that expend more than 25% of their annual budget on political activities. This definition will also apply to out-of-state organizations expending more than 25% of their budget on political activities in all 50 states; and

(8) Requires additional reporting of disclosure reports to the Missouri Ethics Commission. Any individual and committee currently required to file a disclosure report must report any contribution of \$5,000 or more by electronic means within 48 hours of the contribution. Any statewide elected official and candidate for statewide office must report any contribution of \$500 or more made during the legislative session or at any time that legislation is subject to gubernatorial signature within 48 hours.