

HB 949 -- USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR LOBBYING

SPONSOR: Hurst

This bill prohibits any employee of a state agency and department from engaging in any activity requiring registration as a lobbyist, registering as a lobbyist, testifying for or against legislation, or remaining on the House or Senate floor during any session of the General Assembly. An employee may use his or her own personal time to testify in a committee and meet with legislators, but may not receive compensation or per diem compensation for any time devoted to this activity. The employee may testify for informational purposes only before a committee of the General Assembly.

The bill prohibits a state agency employee from contributing or spending public funds to support or oppose a ballot measure or candidate for public office. The funds may not be used to employ a legislative lobbyist on behalf of the agency or department or to employ in any capacity an individual who is required to register as a legislative lobbyist. A violation of these expenditure requirements will be a class B misdemeanor.

This bill does not apply to the political activities of any statewide elected official, member of the General Assembly, member of the judiciary, or their staff and employees.