

HB 60 -- LOBBYIST EXPENDITURES

SPONSOR: Alferman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 10 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by Rules-Legislative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 3.

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.

Certain exceptions to the definition of expenditures are added to current law. Customary gifts, flowers and plants, returned items, and speaking fees, and items customarily received are exempt.

The bill also requires individualized reporting by lobbyists on their expenditure reports to the Missouri Ethics Commission for events unless all members of the General Assembly or a statewide elected official's office are invited to the event. If all members or a statewide office holder is invited in writing, then total aggregate amounts may be used on the reports.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is consistent with legislation from other state's that have gift bans.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Alferman.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the lobbyists are willing to work with public officials to ensure that all the provisions of the bill are followed.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Society Of Governmental Consultants.