

HB 648 -- Political Activities

Sponsor: Yates

This bill changes the laws regarding political activities and campaign finance. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Prohibits all fund-raising activities and events supporting or opposing any candidate, ballot measure, or political party or committee on state-owned or -leased property;

(2) Requires any member of the General Assembly who is found guilty of or pleads guilty to a felony to immediately forfeit his or her office and prohibits the member from holding any future elective office in the state or any of its political subdivisions;

(3) Prohibits any person who is found guilty of or pleads guilty to a felony from being employed in the Capitol Building by the House of Representatives or Senate or any of their committees;

(4) Prohibits statewide elected officials and members of the General Assembly from accepting any compensation from any committee regulated by the Missouri Ethics Commission or from any independent organization that receives funding from these committees;

(5) Prohibits members of the General Assembly from receiving anything of value from a lobbyist;

(6) Prohibits elected and appointed state or local officials from contracting to provide goods or services to the state or its political subdivisions or from acting as a lobbyist within one year of leaving office or state employment;

(7) Requires elected or appointed state officials or employees of the executive or legislative branch placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of a criminal investigation or prosecution to reimburse the state for all salary, benefits, and other compensation if they are ultimately terminated as a result of the investigation or prosecution;

(8) Prohibits employees of the state or any political subdivision from engaging in any political campaign activity while on duty;

(9) Allows the commission to impose a fine of up to \$500 for each violation of Sections 105.450 - 105.496, RSMo, and Chapter 130;

(10) Prohibits any person with unpaid fines imposed by the commission from qualifying as a candidate for elective public office; and

(11) Prohibits any person or entity who contracts with the state from contributing more than \$1,000 to any candidate for state office.