

HB 1188 -- Fair Influence in Government Act

Sponsor: Schoeller

This bill establishes the Fair Influence in Government Act. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Prohibits state appropriated funds and moneys collected from local taxes from being used to influence the passage or defeat of any legislative measure or to hire a lobbyist;
- (2) Prohibits any public resources from being used to pay the membership dues of a lobbyist;
- (3) Specifies that any person who accepts public funds as compensation for lobbying in violation of the provisions of the bill may be prohibited from registering as a legislative lobbyist for a period not to exceed two years;
- (4) Allows an individual the right to communicate with public officials and allows the use of lobbyists to monitor legislation and testify for informational purposes only; and
- (5) Specifies that any state agency, political subdivision, or private entity that violates the provisions of the bill will be liable for a fine of between \$1,000 and \$5,000.