

HB 417 -- ETHICS

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This bill changes laws regarding ethics. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Prohibits a member of the General Assembly and specified statewide elected officials from soliciting any registered lobbyist for any position with a hiring date beginning after the person is no longer an elected official while he or she holds office;

(2) Prohibits a member of the General Assembly and specified statewide elected officials from serving as a paid lobbyist or representing clients before the General Assembly within two years after leaving office;

(3) Prohibits a member of the General Assembly from accepting or receiving monetary compensation as a paid political consultant for any other member of the General Assembly; specified statewide elected officials; or any campaign, candidate, continuing, or political party committee and any spouse or dependent child from accepting or receiving any kind of compensation on behalf of any state representative or senator who acts as a paid political consultant;

(4) Specifies that the financial interest statement filing rules under Section 105.483, RSMo, apply to all persons regardless of whether he or she is compensated on a full-time, part-time, or contract basis;

(5) Adds to the information required for a financial interest statement by requiring a person who files a statement under Section 105.485 to include the name and address of each corporation in which he or she served as a trustee, partner, proprietor, representative, employee, or consultant and the name and address of specified not-for-profit corporations, associations, organizations, or unions in which the person was a partner, proprietor, representative, or consultant. A person who is required to file a financial interest statement must also include the source, date, and amount of payments made to a charitable organization in lieu of honoraria;

(6) Changes, from a unanimous to a majority vote of the Missouri Ethics Commission, when the executive director of the commission must, without receipt of a complaint, conduct an independent investigation of any potential violations of specified provisions if there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation has occurred;

(7) Changes the provisions regarding the transfer of funds between and among committees;

(8) Prohibits any person from transferring anything of value to any committee with the intent to conceal from the commission the identity of the actual source and specifies the punishment for any violation;

(9) Requires all committees required to file campaign financial disclosure reports with the commission to file any report in an electronic format as prescribed by the commission;

(10) Prohibits a committee from transferring any funds to another committee if the treasurer of the committee receiving the funds is the treasurer for the committee transferring the funds;

(11) Prohibits a committee from receiving any contribution by any organization exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(4) unless the organization has disclosed to the commission the name and address of each person donating over \$100 to the organization or provides a list of all donors to the public on its website;

(12) Increases the penalty for a person who commits the crime of obstruction of an ethics investigation from a class A misdemeanor to a class D felony; and

(13) Adds any public official, statewide elected official, or employee of the state and its agencies when he or she is operating in his or her official capacity and using state-funded equipment for his or her official communications to the definition of "public governmental body" and subject to the requirements of the Open Meetings and Records Law under Chapter 610, commonly known as the Sunshine Law.