

HB 445 -- ETHICS (Dogan)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on General Laws

This bill prohibits all types of lobbyists from making any expenditure for local government officials, superintendents, school board members, members of governing bodies of charter schools, their staffs, and specified family members. Local government lobbyists may make expenditures for events where all members of a particular political subdivision or all members of the General Assembly are invited. Employees of these entities may engage in lobbying activities as part of their job description.

The bill enacts a two-year waiting period before the elected or appointed local officials can register as a lobbyist. A gift prohibition limiting gifts to items under \$5 per day to specified political subdivision officials is enacted. A \$2000 limit on campaign contributions for municipal, political subdivision, and special district offices is established.

Several new exemptions to the open records law commonly known as the Sunshine law are created including personal information and social security numbers, records of constituent files, and communications involving advice, opinions, and recommendations concerning the deliberative decision-making process of any public governmental body.

A prohibition on the use of specified self-destructing encrypted messaging technology for use in public business is also created.