

\_\_\_\_\_ offers the following  
substitute to HB 142:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics in government, so as to change certain provisions relating to powers and duties of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission; to change certain provisions relating to definitions relative to public officers' conduct and lobbyist disclosure; to change certain provisions relating to lobbyist registration requirements, application for registration, supplemental registration, expiration, docket, fees, identification cards, public rosters, and exemptions; to regulate certain contact between lobbyists and members of the General Assembly and the making or acceptance of certain expenditures; to change certain provisions relating to lobbyist disclosure reports; to amend Code Section 45-10-91 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to a method for addressing improper conduct by members of the General Assembly, so as to change certain provisions relating to filing of complaints; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics in government, is amended in Code Section 21-5-6, relating to powers and duties of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission, by revising paragraph (7) of subsection (a) as follows:

"(7) To adopt in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the 'Georgia Administrative Procedure Act,' such any rules and regulations as are specifically authorized in necessary and appropriate for carrying out the purposes of this chapter; provided, however, that the commission shall not require the reporting or disclosure of more information on any report than is required by this chapter; and"

**SECTION 2.**

Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 21-5-70, relating to definitions relative to public officers' conduct and lobbyist disclosure, by revising paragraphs (1) and (5) as follows:

"(1) 'Expenditure':

(A) Means a purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or conveyance of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the actions of any public officer, specifically including any such transaction which is made on behalf of or for the benefit of a public employee for the purpose of influencing a public officer;

(B) Includes any other form of payment when such can be reasonably construed as designed to encourage or influence a public officer;

(B.1) Includes reimbursement or payment of actual and reasonable expenses provided to a public officer for transportation, travel, lodging, registration, food, and beverages; ~~and other activities related to attending a meeting or conference so as to permit such public officer's participation in such meeting or conference;~~

(C) Includes any gratuitous transfer, payment, subscription, advance, or deposit of money, services, tickets for admission to athletic, sporting, recreational, musical concert, or other entertainment events, or anything of value, unless consideration of equal or greater than face value is received;

(D) ~~Notwithstanding division (x) of subparagraph (E) of this paragraph, includes food or beverage consumed at a single meal or event by a public officer or public employee or a member of the family of such public officer or public employee~~ Includes reimbursement or payment of expenses for recreational or leisure activities; and

(E) ~~The term shall~~ Does not include: anything defined in paragraph (4.1) of this Code section as a lobbying expenditure, the provisions of subparagraphs (A) through (D) of this paragraph notwithstanding."

"(4.1) 'Lobbying expenditure' means:

~~(i) The value of personal services performed by persons who serve voluntarily without compensation from any source;~~

~~(ii) A gift received from a member of the public officer's family;~~

~~(iii) Legal compensation or expense reimbursement provided to public employees and to public officers in the performance of their duties;~~

~~(iv)~~(A) Promotional items generally distributed to the general public or to public officers and food and beverages produced in Georgia;

~~(v)~~(B) An award, plaque, certificate, memento, or similar item given in recognition of the recipient's civic, charitable, political, professional, or public service;

(vi)(C) Legitimate salary, benefits, fees, commissions, or expenses associated with a recipient's nonpublic business, employment, trade, or profession;

(vii) (D) Food, beverages, and registration at group events to which all members of an agency, as defined in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 21-5-30.2, are invited. ~~An~~ For purposes of this subparagraph, an agency shall also include the ~~Georgia~~ House of Representatives, the ~~Georgia~~ Senate, standing committees of such bodies and standing subcommittees of such bodies ~~standing committees~~, local delegations of the House and Senate as defined by House and Senate rules, caucuses of members of the majority or minority political parties of the House or Senate, and the governing body of each political subdivision of this state;

(viii) (E) Campaign contributions or expenditures as defined by Code Section 21-5-3 and reported as required by Article 2 of this chapter;

~~(ix) A commercially reasonable loan made in the ordinary course of business;~~

~~(x) Food, beverage, or expenses afforded public officers, members of their immediate families, or others that are associated with normal and customary business or social functions or activities; or~~

~~(xi) Transportation unless a lobbyist arranges for or participates in such transportation.~~

(E.1) Monetary fees and honorariums paid to a public officer for speaking engagements or participation in seminars, discussion panels, or other activities which directly relate to the official duties of that public officer or the office of that public officer to the extent not prohibited by Code Section 21-5-11 and which are disclosed as required by Article 3 of this chapter;

(F) Reimbursement or payment of actual and reasonable expenses provided to a public officer and his or her necessary public employee staff members for such public officer's and staff members' individual transportation, travel, lodging, and registration for attending educational, informational, or civic meetings, functions, or conferences that directly relate to the official duties of that public officer or the office of that public officer, plus food and beverages for such public officer, his or her necessary public employee staff members, and spouse while attending such educational, informational, or civic meetings, functions, or conferences; or

(G) Admission provided to members of the General Assembly to any collegiate athletic event in which a student athletic team from a branch of the University System of Georgia participates, if admission to such event is offered to all members of the General Assembly.

~~"(5) 'Lobbyist' means, subject to the qualifications at the end of this paragraph:~~

(A) Any natural person who receives compensation or provides services pro bono publico for advocating to a public officer of the executive or legislative branch of state government as specified in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, while at the state capitol, Coverdell Legislative Office Building, or other state government facility, a position or agenda on behalf of an organization or business entity for the purpose of influencing the decision making of such public officer, if such natural person is neither subject to nor expressly exempted by any other provision of this paragraph or subsection (i) of Code Section 21-5-71;

~~(A)~~(A.1) Any natural person who, either individually or as an employee of another person, is compensated specifically for undertaking to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by the Governor;

(B) Any natural person who makes a ~~total~~ lobbying expenditure ~~of more than \$1,000.00 in a calendar year~~, not including the person's own travel, food, lodging expenses, or informational material, to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by the Governor;

(C) Any natural person who as an employee of the executive branch or judicial branch of state government engages in any activity covered under subparagraph ~~(A)~~(A.1) of this paragraph;

(D) Any natural person who, either individually or as an employee of another person, is compensated specifically for undertaking to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance or resolution;

(E) Any natural person who makes a ~~total~~ lobbying expenditure ~~of more than \$1,000.00 in a calendar year~~, not including the person's own travel, food, lodging expenses, or informational material, to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance or resolution;

(F) Any natural person who as an employee of the executive branch or judicial branch of local government engages in any activity covered under subparagraph (D) of this paragraph;

(G) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee of another person, is hired specifically to undertake influencing a public officer or state agency in the selection of a vendor to supply any goods or services to any state agency

but does not include any employee or independent contractor of the vendor solely on the basis that such employee or independent contractor participates in soliciting a bid or in preparing a written bid, written proposal, or other document relating to a potential sale to a state agency and shall not include a bona fide salesperson who sells to or contracts with a state agency for goods or services and who does not otherwise engage in activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) or (H) through ~~(J)~~(I) of this paragraph;

(H) Any natural person who, either individually or as an employee of another person, is compensated specifically for undertaking to promote or oppose the passage of any rule or regulation of any state agency;

(I) Any natural person who, either individually or as an employee of another person, is compensated specifically for undertaking to promote or oppose any matter before the State Transportation Board; or

(J) Any natural person who makes a total lobbying expenditure ~~of more than \$1,000.00 in a calendar year~~, not including the person's own travel, food, lodging expenses, or informational material, to promote or oppose any matter before the State Transportation Board.

~~The provisions of subparagraphs (A), (C), (D), (F), (G), (H), and (I) of this paragraph shall apply only where the person in question spends more than 10 percent of his or her working hours engaged in the activities described in one or more of those subparagraphs. In the case of a person who is employed by a single employer, the 10 percent test shall be applied to all time worked for that employer. In the case of a person who is employed by more than one employer or retained by more than one client, the 10 percent test shall be applied separately with respect to time spent working for each employer and each client. A person who spends less than 10 percent of his or her time working for an employer or client engaged in such activities shall not be required to register as or be subject to regulation as a lobbyist for that employer or client. In applying the 10 percent test, time spent in planning, researching, or preparing for activities described in subparagraphs (A), (C), (D), (F), (G), (H), and (I) of this paragraph shall be counted as time engaged in such activities. When registration is required, the time of registration shall be as provided in Code Section 21-5-71."~~

### SECTION 3.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-5-71, relating to lobbyist registration requirements, application for registration, supplemental registration, expiration, docket, fees, identification cards, public rosters, and exemptions, as follows:

168 "21-5-71.

169 (a)(1) Subject to ~~paragraphs (2) and (3)~~ paragraph (2) of this subsection and except as  
 170 otherwise provided by subsection (i) of this Code section, no person shall engage in  
 171 lobbying as defined by this article unless such person is registered with the commission  
 172 as a lobbyist. The commission shall not allow a person who has been convicted of a  
 173 felony involving moral turpitude in the courts of this state or an offense that, had it  
 174 occurred in this state, would constitute a felony involving moral turpitude under the laws  
 175 of this state to become a registered lobbyist unless ten years or more have elapsed since  
 176 the completion of the person's sentence. The administration of this article is vested in the  
 177 commission.

178 (2) When a person is hired or retained as an employee or agent or independent contractor  
 179 and under the agreement of the parties the primary duties, or a substantial part of the  
 180 duties, of the person will involve lobbying activities, the person shall register as a  
 181 lobbyist before commencing lobbying activities.

182 ~~(3) When paragraph (2) does not apply there shall be a lookback period of each calendar~~  
 183 ~~month for determining whether the 10 percent test of paragraph (5) of Code Section~~  
 184 ~~21-5-70 has been met. If at the end of any month the 10 percent test has been met during~~  
 185 ~~that month, the person shall register as a lobbyist within five days after the last day of that~~  
 186 ~~month and shall in his or her initial disclosure report include all prior lobbying~~  
 187 ~~expenditures in that calendar year.~~

188 (b) Each lobbyist shall file an application for registration with the commission. The  
 189 application shall be verified by the applicant and shall contain:

190 (1) The applicant's name, address, and telephone number;

191 (2) The name, address, and telephone number of the person or agency that employs,  
 192 appoints, or authorizes the applicant to lobby on its behalf;

193 (3) A statement of the general business or purpose of each person, firm, corporation,  
 194 association, or agency the applicant represents;

195 (4) If the applicant represents a membership group other than an agency or corporation,  
 196 the general purpose and approximate number of members of the organization;

197 (5) A statement signed by the person or agency employing, appointing, or authorizing  
 198 the applicant to lobby on its behalf;

199 (6) If the applicant is a lobbyist ~~within the meaning of subparagraph (G) or (H) of~~  
 200 ~~paragraph (5) of Code Section 21-5-70~~ attempting to influence rule making or purchasing  
 201 by a state agency or agencies, the name of the state agency or agencies before which the  
 202 applicant engages in lobbying;

(7) A statement disclosing each individual or entity on whose behalf the applicant is registering if such individual or entity has agreed to pay him or her an amount exceeding \$10,000.00 in a calendar year for lobbying activities; and

(8) A statement verifying that the applicant has not been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude in the courts of this state or an offense that, had it occurred in this state, would constitute a felony involving moral turpitude under the laws of this state or, if the applicant has been so convicted, a statement identifying such conviction, the date thereof, a copy of the person's sentence, and a statement that more than ten years have elapsed since the completion of his or her sentence.

(c) The lobbyist shall, ~~within seven days of~~ prior to any substantial or material change or addition, file a supplemental registration indicating such substantial or material change or addition to the registration prior to its expiration. Previously filed information may be incorporated by reference. Substantial or material changes or additions shall include, but are not limited to, the pertinent information concerning changes or additions to client and employment information required by paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (6), and (7) and conviction status required by paragraph (8) of subsection (b) of this Code section.

(d) Each registration under this Code section shall expire on December 31 of each year. The commission may establish renewal procedures for those applicants desiring continuous registrations. Previously filed information may be incorporated by reference.

(e) The commission shall provide a suitable public docket for registration under this Code section with appropriate indices and shall enter promptly therein the names of the lobbyists and the organizations they represent.

(f)(1) Each person registering under this Code section shall pay the registration fees set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection; provided, however, that a person who represents any state, county, municipal, or public agency, department, commission, or authority shall be exempted from payment of such registration fees.

(2) The commission shall collect the following fees:

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| (A) Annual lobbyist registration or renewal filed pursuant to this Code section, <u>including a lobbyist identification card issued pursuant to this Code section.</u> . . . . . | <del>\$300.00</del> <u>\$25.00</u> |
| (B) Lobbyist supplemental registration filed pursuant to this Code section. . . . .  | 10.00                              |
| (C) Each <del>copy</del> <u>replacement</u> of a lobbyist identification card issued pursuant to this Code section. . . . .  | 20.00                              |
| (D)(i) For reports filed when the General Assembly is not in session, in addition to other penalties provided under this chapter,  |                                    |

a late fee of \$275.00 shall be imposed for each report that is filed late. In addition, a late fee of \$1,000.00 shall be imposed on the fifteenth day after the due date for such report if the report has not been filed. A late fee of \$10,000.00 shall be imposed on the forty-fifth day after the due date for such report if the report has not been filed.

(ii) The commission shall retain \$25.00 of the first late fee received for processing pursuant to the provisions of Code Section 45-12-92.1.

(E)(i) For reports filed when the General Assembly is in session, in addition to other penalties provided under this chapter, a late fee of \$275.00 shall be imposed for each report that is filed late. In addition, a late fee of \$1,000.00 shall be imposed on the seventh day after the due date for such report if the report has not been filed. A late fee of \$10,000.00 shall be imposed on the twenty-first day after the due date for such report if the report has not been filed.

(ii) The commission shall retain \$25.00 of the first late fee received for processing pursuant to the provisions of Code Section 45-12-92.1.

(g) As soon as practicable after registering any such person, the commission shall issue to such person an identification card which shall have printed thereon the name of the lobbyist, a color photograph of the lobbyist, and the person or agency such lobbyist represents, provided that, when any such person represents more than one entity, such identification card shall have printed thereon the name of the registered person and the word 'LOBBYIST.' Each lobbyist while engaged in lobbying at the capitol or in a government facility shall display said identification in a readily visible manner.

(h) The commission shall regularly publish in print or electronically public rosters of lobbyists along with the respective persons, firms, corporations, associations, agencies, or governmental entities they represent. During sessions of the General Assembly, the commission shall weekly report to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Governor those persons who have registered as lobbyists since the convening of the General Assembly. The commission shall be authorized to charge a reasonable fee for providing copies of the roster to the public.

(i) The registration provisions of this Code section shall not apply to:

(1) Any individual who ~~expresses~~ communicates personal views, interests, or professional opinions on that individual's own behalf; to any public officer of the



executive or legislative branch of state government as specified in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3;

(1.1) Any person who is not a public officer or public employee and who engages in lobbying at the state capitol, Coverdell Legislative Office Building, or other state government facility a combined total of not more than five days in a calendar year;

(1.2) An employee or independent contractor of a vendor who solely participates in soliciting a bid or in preparing a written bid, written proposal, or other document relating to a potential contract with a state or local government agency or a bona fide salesperson who sells to or contracts with a state or local government agency for goods or services, is not hired specifically to undertake influencing a public officer or state agency in the selection of a vendor to supply any goods or services to any state agency, and does not engage in other activities which would make such person a lobbyist;

(2) Any person who ~~appears before~~ is invited by a public agency or governmental entity to appear before a committee or at a hearing of such agency or entity, including but not limited to a committee of either chamber of the General Assembly or a joint committee thereof, for the purpose of giving testimony ~~when so long as such person is not otherwise required to comply with the registration provisions of this Code section~~ clearly identifies himself or herself and the interested party on whose behalf he or she is testifying;

(3) ~~Any public employee of an agency appearing before a governmental entity committee or hearing at the request of the governmental entity or any person who furnishes~~ is invited to furnish information upon the specific request of a public agency or governmental entity, including but not limited to a committee of either chamber of the General Assembly or a joint committee thereof, so long as such person clearly identifies himself or herself and the interested party on whose behalf he or she furnishes such information;

(3.1) Any industry or business expert appearing before a public agency or governmental entity committee, including but not limited to a committee of either chamber of the General Assembly or a joint committee thereof, for the purpose of giving testimony or furnishing information when accompanied by a registered lobbyist representing such industry or business or representing an association or trade group for such industry or business;

(4) Any licensed attorney when representing a client in administrative proceedings or in civil litigation or criminal proceedings or appearing on behalf of a client in any adversarial proceeding before an agency of this state or any political subdivision of this state;

(5) Any person employed or appointed by a lobbyist registered pursuant to this Code section whose duties and activities do not include lobbying;

(6) Elected public officers or appointed public officials performing the official duties of their public office or position; and

(7) Any public employee who performs services at the direction of a member of the General Assembly including, but not limited to, drafting petitions, bills, or resolutions; attending the taking of testimony; collating facts; preparing arguments and memorials and submitting them orally or in writing to a committee or member of the General Assembly; and other services of like character intended to reach the reason of the legislators."

#### SECTION 4.

Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"21-5-72.1.

(a)(1) No person who is required by the law of this state to register as a lobbyist shall meet at the state capitol, Coverdell Legislative Office Building, or other state government facility with any member of the General Assembly to discuss the promotion or opposition of the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the override of a veto unless such person either is wearing his or her valid official registered lobbyist badge or is a resident of the House or Senate district which such member represents.

(2) No member of the General Assembly shall knowingly meet at the state capitol, Coverdell Legislative Office Building, or other state government facility with any person who is registered as a lobbyist to discuss the promotion or opposition of the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the override of a veto unless such person either is wearing his or her valid official registered lobbyist badge or is a resident of the House or Senate district which such member represents.

(b)(1) No person who is registered or required to be registered as a lobbyist under Code Section 21-5-71 shall make any expenditure.

(2) No public officer shall with actual knowledge accept any expenditure from a person who is registered as a lobbyist under Code Section 21-5-71."

#### SECTION 5.

Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 21-5-73, relating to lobbyist disclosure reports, as follows:

"21-5-73.

(a) Each lobbyist registered under this article shall file disclosure reports as provided for in this Code section in the electronic format specified by the commission, except as otherwise provided by subsection (j) of this Code section.

(b) A person who is a lobbyist pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (5) of Code Section 21-5-70 required to register under this article and lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by the Governor shall file a semimonthly disclosure report on the first and fifteenth day of each month, current through the end of the preceding report, beginning January 15 and continuing throughout the period that the General Assembly is in session.

(c) A person who is a lobbyist pursuant to subparagraph (D) or (E) of paragraph (5) of Code Section 21-5-70 required to register under this article and lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance or resolution shall:

(1) File a disclosure report, current through the end of the preceding month, on or before the fifth day of May, September, and January of each year instead of the reports required by subsections (b) and (d) of this Code section; and

(2) File such report with the commission, file a copy of such report with the election superintendent of each county involved if the report contains any lobbying expenditures relating to county or county school district affairs, and file a copy of such report with the municipal clerk (or if there is no municipal clerk, with the chief executive officer of the municipality) of each municipality involved if the report contains any lobbying expenditures relating to municipal affairs or independent school district affairs.

(d) A person who is a lobbyist pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (F), (G), (H), (I), or (J) of paragraph (5) of Code Section 21-5-70 required to register under this article and:

(1) Lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by the Governor;

(2) As an employee of the executive branch or judicial branch of local government, lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance or resolution;

(3) Lobbies to influence a public officer or state agency in the selection of a vendor to supply any goods or services to any state agency; or

(4) Lobbies to promote or oppose any matter before the State Transportation Board

shall file a monthly disclosure report, current through the end of the preceding period, on or before the fifth day of each month; provided, however, that such monthly reports shall

not be filed during any period that the lobbyist files a semimonthly report pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section.

(e) Reports filed by lobbyists shall be verified and shall include:

(1) A description of all lobbying expenditures, ~~as defined in~~ described in subparagraphs (D), (F), and (G) of paragraph (4.1) of Code Section 21-5-70, or the value thereof made on behalf of or for the benefit of a public officer or on behalf of or for the benefit of a public employee for the purpose of influencing a public officer by the lobbyist or employees of the lobbyist or by any person on whose behalf the lobbyist is registered if the lobbyist has actual knowledge of such lobbying expenditure. The description of each reported lobbying expenditure shall include:

(A) The name and title of the public officer or public employee or, if the lobbying expenditure is simultaneously incurred for an identifiable group of public officers or public employees the individual identification of whom would be impractical, a general description of that identifiable group;

(B) The amount, date, and description of the lobbying expenditure and a summary of all spending classified by category. Such categories shall include ~~gifts~~, meals, ~~entertainment~~, lodging, ~~equipment~~, ~~advertising~~, travel, and ~~postage tickets~~;

(C) ~~The provisions of Code Section 21-5-70 notwithstanding~~, aggregate lobbying expenditures described in ~~divisions (1)(E)(vii) and (1)(E)(x)~~ subparagraph (D) of paragraph (4.1) of Code Section 21-5-70 incurred during the reporting period; provided, however, expenses for travel and for food, beverage, and lodging in connection therewith afforded a public officer or public employee shall be reported in the same manner as under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D) of this paragraph;

(D) If applicable, the number of the bill, resolution, ordinance, or regulation pending before the governmental entity in support of or opposition to which the lobbying expenditure was made; and

(E) If applicable, the rule or regulation number or description of the rule or regulation pending before the state agency in support of or opposition to which the lobbying expenditure was made;

(2) For those who are ~~lobbyists within the meaning of subparagraph (G) of paragraph (5) of Code Section 21-5-70~~ required to register under this article and lobby to influence a public officer or state agency in the selection of a vendor to supply any goods or services to any state agency, the name of any vendor or vendors for which the lobbyist undertook to influence the awarding of a contract or contracts by any state agency together with a description of the contract or contracts and the monetary amount of the contract or contracts; and

(3) For those who are lobbyists within the meaning of subparagraph (H) of paragraph (5) of Code Section 21-5-70 required to register under this article and lobby to promote or oppose the passage of any rule or regulation of any state agency, the name of the individual or entity for which the lobbyist undertook to influence the rule or regulation of a state agency.

(f) The reports required by this article shall be in addition to any reports required under Code Section 45-1-6, relating to required reports by state vendors of gifts to public employees. Compliance with this Code section shall not excuse noncompliance with that Code section, and compliance with that Code section shall not excuse noncompliance with this Code section, notwithstanding the fact that in some cases the same information may be required to be disclosed under both Code sections.

(g) The electronic filing of any disclosure report required by this article shall constitute an affirmation that such report is true, complete, and correct.

(h) The commission shall not require the reporting of any more information in a lobbyist disclosure report than is expressly required to be disclosed by this Code section.

(i) All lobbyists shall have a grace period of three business days in filing all disclosure reports.

(j) Any employee of a branch, department, commission, agency, or authority of state government who is required to register under this article shall not be subject to the reporting requirements of this Code section."

## SECTION 6.

Code Section 45-10-91 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to a method for addressing improper conduct by members of the General Assembly, is amended by revising subsection (a) as follows:

"(a) Any person may file a complaint with the clerical officer of the appropriate chamber alleging improper conduct involving a member of the General Assembly. Any employee may file a complaint with the clerical officer of the appropriate chamber alleging sexual harassment by a member of the General Assembly. The clerical officer shall designate the place where such complaints may be filed, provide instruction necessary to properly submit a complaint, and prescribe forms for such complainants. Complaints shall be submitted in writing and verified under oath to the best information, knowledge, and belief of such person. The complaint shall include a statement by the complainant as to whether or not in filing the complaint he or she is acting as an agent, paid or otherwise, for any other person. Any person who knowingly provides false information in executing a complaint under this Code section commits the offense of false swearing within the meaning of Code Section 16-10-71."

455 **SECTION 7.**

456 This Act shall become effective on January 1 next following the date this Act is approved by  
457 the Governor or becomes law without such approval.

458 **SECTION 8.**

459 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.