

Senate Bill 446

By: Senators Cheeks of the 23rd, Crotts of the 17th, Balfour of the 9th, Stephens of the 51st,
Lee of the 29th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 4 of Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to regulation of lobbyists and lobbying, so as to provide that it shall be unlawful for
3 any state government organization, officer, or employee to expend public funds for lobbying;
4 to provide that it shall be unlawful for any person or organization to expend funds
5 appropriated by the General Assembly for lobbying; to provide that it shall be unlawful for
6 any lobbyist or other person to accept such funds; to provide an exception for the regular
7 compensation of state officers and employees; to provide for criminal and civil penalties; to
8 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Article 4 of Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
12 regulation of lobbyists and lobbying, is amended by adding at its end a new Code Section
13 21-5-74 to read as follows:

14 "21-5-74.

15 (a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this Code section, it shall be unlawful for any
16 state department, agency, board, bureau, commission, authority, or other entity of state
17 government or any state officer or employee to pay any public funds to any lobbyist or any
18 other person for the lobbyist's or other person's services in promoting, opposing, or
19 influencing the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee
20 thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by the Governor.

21 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this Code section, it shall be unlawful for any
22 person or organization to pay any funds to any lobbyist or other person for the lobbyist's
23 or other person's services in promoting, opposing, or influencing the passage of any
24 legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee thereof, or the approval or veto of
25 legislation by the Governor, where the source of such funds is an appropriation of funds
26 by the General Assembly.

1 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this Code section, it shall be unlawful for a
2 lobbyist or other person to knowingly accept any funds paid in violation of subsection (a)
3 or (b) of this Code section.

4 (d) This Code section shall not apply to the payment of salary or other compensation to
5 a full-time officer or employee of the state who is a lobbyist as that term is defined in this
6 article but who also performs other duties of office or employment in addition to lobbying.

7 (e) Any person who violates subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this Code section shall upon
8 conviction be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall also be subject to civil penalties as
9 provided in this article."

10

SECTION 2.

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