

House Bill 681

By: Representative Sims of the 169th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 21-5-71 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 lobbyist registration requirements, application for registration, supplemental registration,
3 expiration, docket, fees, identification cards, public rosters, and exemptions, so as to prohibit
4 the registration of full-time employees of state government agencies as lobbyists for anyone
5 other than their employing agencies; to amend Code Section 45-10-23, relating to prohibiting
6 full-time employees of state government agencies from transacting business with their own
7 state agencies and an exception for employees of the Board of Regents, so as to prohibit
8 full-time employees of state government agencies from engaging in lobbying for anyone
9 other than their employing agencies; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

12 Code Section 21-5-71 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to lobbyist
13 registration requirements, application for registration, supplemental registration, expiration,
14 docket, fees, identification cards, public rosters, and exemptions, is amended by striking
15 subsection (a) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

16 "(a)(1) No person shall engage in lobbying as defined by this article unless such person
17 is registered with the State Ethics Commission as a lobbyist. The administration of this
18 article is vested in the State Ethics Commission. The State Ethics Commission shall be
19 the successor to the Secretary of State with respect to such officer's former regulation of
20 registered agents.

21 (2)(A) As used in this paragraph, the terms 'agency,' 'employee,' and 'full-time' have the
22 same meanings provided by Code Section 45-10-20.

23 (B) No full-time employee shall be allowed to register as a lobbyist in this state to
24 engage in lobbying for any person, group, corporation, or other entity, other than his or
25 her employing agency."

SECTION 2.

Code Section 45-10-23 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to prohibiting full-time employees of state government agencies from transacting business with their own state agencies and an exception for employees of the Board of Regents, is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(a)(1) It shall be unlawful for any full-time employee, for himself or herself or on behalf of any business, or for any business in which such employee or member of his or her family has a substantial interest to transact any business with the agency by which such employee is employed; provided, however, that neither this Code section nor any other provision of law shall prevent full-time employees of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia from serving as members of the governing boards of private, nonprofit, educational, athletic, or research related foundations and associations which are organized for the purpose of supporting institutions of higher education in this state and which in furtherance of this purpose may transact business with such institutions or with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

(2)(A) As used in this paragraph, the term 'lobbying' has the same meaning provided by Code Section 21-5-70.

(B) It shall be unlawful for any full-time employee to engage in lobbying for any person, group, corporation, or other entity, other than his or her employing agency."

SECTION 3.

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