

The Senate Ethics Committee offered the following substitute to HB 1141:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics
2 in government, so as to provide for the venue of certain actions; to provide for the payment
3 of certain registration and other fees by persons who register as lobbyists; to provide for the
4 establishment of such fees; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
5 other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

7 Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics in
8 government, is amended by striking Code Section 21-5-8, relating to venue, and inserting in
9 lieu thereof a new Code Section 21-5-8 to read as follows:
10

11 "21-5-8.

12 Venue for prosecution of civil violations of this chapter or for any other action by or on
13 behalf of the commission shall be in ~~the county of the residence of the candidate or public~~
14 ~~officer at the time of the alleged violation or action~~ Fulton County, Georgia."

SECTION 2.

15 Said chapter is further amended by striking subsection (f) of Code Section 21-5-71, relating
16 to registration of lobbyists, and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (f) to read as
17 follows:
18

19 "(f)(1) Each person registering under this Code section shall pay the registration fees set
20 forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection; provided, however, that a person who represents
21 any state, county, municipal, or public agency, department, commission, or authority
22 shall be exempted from payment of such registration fees ~~and a person employed by an~~
23 ~~organization exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4)~~
24 ~~of the Internal Revenue Code, as that code is defined in Code Section 48-1-2, shall be~~

1 ~~exempted from payment of such registration fees except for payment of an initial~~
2 ~~registration fee of \$25.00.~~

3 ~~(2)(A) The commission shall collect the following fees: for annual lobbyist registration~~
4 ~~and for the issuance of identification cards under this Code section. The amount of such~~
5 ~~fees shall be set by the State Accounting Office annually after consultation with the~~
6 ~~commission such that the total amount of such fees shall approximate the total of the~~
7 ~~direct and indirect costs to the state for registering such lobbyists, filing the reports by~~
8 ~~such lobbyists required by this article, providing identification cards to such lobbyists,~~
9 ~~and enforcing the provisions of this article concerning lobbyists for the year. In no event~~
10 ~~shall the registration fee exceed \$200.00 per year for any individual registered lobbyist.~~
11 ~~Additional registrations submitted by any registered lobbyist for any given year shall not~~
12 ~~exceed \$20.00 per additional registration.~~

13 ~~(A) Annual lobbyist registration filed pursuant to this Code section~~
14 ~~..... \$ 200.00~~

15 ~~(B) Lobbyist supplemental registration filed pursuant to this Code section~~
16 ~~..... 10.00~~

17 ~~(C) Each lobbyist identification card issued pursuant to this Code section~~
18 ~~..... 5.00~~

19 ~~(D)~~(B) In addition to other penalties provided under this chapter, a filing fee of \$50.00
20 shall be imposed for each report that is filed late. In addition, a filing fee of \$25.00
21 shall be imposed on the fifteenth day after the due date if the report has still not been
22 filed."

23 **SECTION 3.**

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