

House Bill 1179

By: Representatives Ralston of the 7th, Keen of the 179th, and Ehrhart of the 36th

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 public officials conduct and lobbyist disclosure, so as to change certain provisions
3 relating to lobbyist registration and the application for registration; to prohibit certain
4 convicted felons from being lobbyists; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 4 of Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 public officials conduct and lobbyist disclosure, is amended by revising subsections (a), (b),
10 and (c) of Code Section 21-5-71, relating to lobbyist registration requirements, the
11 application for registration, supplemental registration, fees, identification cards, and
12 exemptions, as follows:

13 "(a) No person shall engage in lobbying as defined by this article unless such person is
14 registered with the commission as a lobbyist. The commission shall not allow a person
15 who has been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude in the courts of this state or
16 an offense that, had it occurred in this state, would constitute a felony involving moral
17 turpitude under the laws of this state, to become a registered lobbyist unless ten years or
18 more have elapsed since the completion of the person's sentence. The administration of
19 this article is vested in the commission.

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

- 22 (1) The applicant's name, address, and telephone number;
- 23 (2) The name, address, and telephone number of the person or agency that employs,
24 appoints, or authorizes the applicant to lobby on its behalf;
- 25 (3) A statement of the general business or purpose of each person, firm, corporation,
26 association, or agency the applicant represents;

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

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

5 (6) If the applicant is a lobbyist within the meaning of subparagraph (G) or (H) of
6 paragraph (5) of Code Section 21-5-70, the name of the state agency or agencies before
7 which the applicant engages in lobbying; ~~and~~

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

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

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

24 SECTION 2.

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