

Senate Bill 503

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Pearson of the 51st, Williams of the 19th, Rogers of the 21st, Tolleson of the 20th 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 public officials' conduct and lobbyist disclosure, so as to require lobbyists to file  
3 disclosure reports of expenditures on members of the State Transportation Board; to provide  
4 for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 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 paragraph (5) of  
10 Code Section 21-5-70, relating to definitions, as follows:

11 "(5) 'Lobbyist' means:

12 (A) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee  
13 of another person, undertakes to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by  
14 the General Assembly, or any committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation  
15 by the Governor;

16 (B) Any natural person who makes a total expenditure of more than \$250.00 in a  
17 calendar year, not including the person's own travel, food, lodging expenses, or  
18 informational material, to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the  
19 General Assembly, or any committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by  
20 the Governor;

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

24 (D) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee  
25 of another person, undertakes to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or  
26 resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22)

27 of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or  
28 veto of any such ordinance or resolution;

29 (E) Any natural person who makes a total expenditure of more than \$250.00 in a  
30 calendar year, not including the person's own travel, food, lodging expenses, or  
31 informational material, to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution  
32 by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code  
33 Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any  
34 such ordinance or resolution;

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

38 (G) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee  
39 of another person is hired specifically to undertake influencing a public officer or state  
40 agency in the selection of a vendor to supply any goods or services to any state agency  
41 but does not include any employee of the vendor solely on the basis that such employee  
42 participates in soliciting a bid or in preparing a written bid, written proposal, or other  
43 document relating to a potential sale to a state agency; ~~or~~

44 (H) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee  
45 of another person, is hired specifically to undertake to promote or oppose the passage  
46 of any rule or regulation of any state agency; or

47 (I) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee  
48 of another person, undertakes to influence a member of the State Transportation Board  
49 in the selection of a vendor or contractor to supply any goods or services to the  
50 Department of Transportation."

51 **SECTION 2.**

52 Said article is further amended in Code Section 21-5-73, relating to disclosure reports by  
53 lobbyists, by revising subsection (d) as follows:

54 "(d) A person who is a lobbyist pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (F), (G), ~~or~~ (H),  
55 or (I) of paragraph (5) of Code Section 21-5-70 shall file a disclosure report, current  
56 through the end of the period ending on July 31 and December 31 of each year, on or  
57 before August 5 and January 5 of each year."

58 **SECTION 3.**

59 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
60 without such approval.

61

**SECTION 4.**

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