

Senate Bill 17

By: Senators Harp of the 29th, Johnson of the 1st and Hooks of the 14th

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, as to increase filing fees and fines for campaign disclosure reports, financial
3 disclosure statements, and lobbyist disclosure reports that are filed late; to provide for related
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics in
8 government, is amended by revising subsection (l) of Code Section 21-5-34, relating to
9 disclosure reports, as follows:

10 "(l) In addition to other penalties provided under this chapter, an additional a filing fee of
11 \$25.00 \$50.00 shall be imposed for each report that is filed late. In addition, a filing fee
12 of \$50.00 \$100.00 shall be imposed on the fifteenth day after the due date if the report has
13 still not been filed; provided, however, a 15 day extension period shall be granted on the
14 final report. A fine of \$250.00 shall be imposed on the forty-fifth day after the due date for
15 such report if the report has not been filed by such date. In the case of a candidate, such
16 fine shall be paid from the personal funds of the candidate and no other funds from any
17 source may be used to pay such fine."

18 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

19 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new paragraph to subsection (a) of Code
20 Section 21-5-50, relating to filing of financial disclosure statements, to read as follows:

21 "(6) In addition to other penalties provided under this chapter, a filing fee of \$50.00 shall
22 be imposed for each financial disclosure statement that is filed late. In addition, a filing
23 fee of \$100.00 shall be imposed on the fifteenth day after the due date if the statement has
24 still not been filed. A fine of \$250.00 shall be imposed on the forty-fifth day after the due
25 date for such statement if the statement has not been filed by such date. Such fine shall

26 be paid from the personal funds of the person required to file such statement and no other
27 funds from any source may be used to pay such fine."

28 **SECTION 3.**

29 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (f) of Code Section 21-5-71, relating
30 to registration of lobbyists, as follows:

31 "(f)(1) Each person registering under this Code section shall pay the registration fees set
32 forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection; provided, however, that a person who represents
33 any state, county, municipal, or public agency, department, commission, or authority
34 shall be exempted from payment of such registration fees ~~and a person employed by an~~
35 ~~organization exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4)~~
36 ~~of the Internal Revenue Code, as that code is defined in Code Section 48-1-2, shall be~~
37 ~~exempted from payment of such registration fees except for payment of an initial~~
38 ~~registration fee of \$25.00.~~

39 (2) The commission shall collect the following fees:

- 40 (A) Annual lobbyist registration or renewal filed pursuant to this Code
41 section ~~\$200.00~~ \$50.00
- 42 (B) Lobbyist supplemental registration filed pursuant to this Code
43 section 10.00
- 44 (C) Each copy of a lobbyist identification card issued pursuant to this
45 Code section ~~5.00~~ 20.00

46 (D) In addition to other penalties provided under this chapter, a filing
47 fee of \$50.00 shall be imposed for each report that is filed late. In
48 addition, a filing fee of ~~\$25.00~~ \$100.00 shall be imposed on the
49 fifteenth day after the due date if the report has still not been filed. A
50 fine of \$250.00 shall be imposed on the forty-fifth day after the due
51 date for such report if the report has not been filed by such date.
52 When such a fine is imposed, such fine shall be paid from the personal
53 funds of the lobbyist and no other funds from any source may be used
54 to pay such fine."

55 **SECTION 4.**

56 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new subsection to Code Section 21-5-73,
57 relating to lobbyist disclosure reports, to read as follows:

58 "(g) In addition to other penalties provided under this chapter, a filing fee of \$50.00 shall
59 be imposed for each report that is filed late. In addition, a filing fee of \$100.00 shall be

60 imposed on the fifteenth day after the due date if the report has still not been filed. A fine
61 of \$250.00 shall be imposed on the forty-fifth day after the due date for such report if the
62 report has not been filed by such date. Such fine shall be paid from the personal funds of
63 the lobbyist and no other funds from any source may be used to pay such fine."

64 **SECTION 5.**

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