

House Bill 485

By: Representatives Kidd of the 145th, Powell of the 32nd, Maxwell of the 17th, and Sharper of the 177th

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 registration required of lobbyists, application for registration, supplemental registration,
3 expiration, docket, fees, identification cards, public rosters, and exemptions, so as to provide
4 for access cards for lobbyists; to provide for criteria for issuance and revocation; to provide
5 for manner of issuance; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
6 other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 21-5-71 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to registration
10 required of lobbyists, application for registration, supplemental registration, expiration,
11 docket, fees, identification cards, public rosters, and exemptions, is amended by adding a
12 new subsection to read as follows:

13 "(j)(1) An individual who applies for registration as a lobbyist pursuant to this Code
14 section may elect to pay a fee of \$250.00 for an access badge under this subsection, in
15 addition to the other fees required under this Code section.

16 (2) In order to be eligible for an access badge under this subsection, the individual shall
17 apply to the commission on forms promulgated by the commission and submit to a
18 fingerprint based criminal history records check from the Georgia Crime Information
19 Center and Federal Bureau of Investigation for purposes of determining the suitability of
20 the applicant for an access badge. The applicant shall submit a set of fingerprints with
21 the application that were taken by an appropriate law enforcement agency in this state or
22 a vendor approved by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for fingerprint submission
23 services. Fingerprints shall be in such form and of such quality as prescribed by the
24 Georgia Crime Information Center and under standards adopted by the Federal Bureau
25 of Investigation.

26 (3) The commission shall, within five business days following receipt of such
 27 application, request a fingerprint based criminal history records check from the Georgia
 28 Crime Information Center and Federal Bureau of Investigation for purposes of
 29 determining the suitability of the applicant and request that an appropriate report be sent
 30 to the commission with the results of such check.

31 (4) No access badge shall be issued to:

32 (A) Any person who has been convicted of a felony by a court of this state or any other
 33 state; by a court of the United States, including its territories, possessions, and
 34 dominions; or by a court of any foreign nation and has not been pardoned for such
 35 felony by the President of the United States, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles,
 36 or the person or agency empowered to grant pardons under the constitution or laws of
 37 such state or nation;

38 (B) Any person against whom proceedings are pending for any felony;

39 (C) Any person who is a fugitive from justice;

40 (D) Any person who has been hospitalized as an inpatient in any psychiatric hospital
 41 or alcohol or drug treatment center within the five years immediately preceding the
 42 application for an access badge; or

43 (E) Any person who has been adjudicated mentally incompetent.

44 (5) The access badge shall be of a distinctive color and design so as to be readily
 45 identified as such. It shall contain the name and a color photograph of the individual to
 46 whom it is issued and any other information that the commission deems appropriate.

47 (6) If such access badge contains all of the information required by this subsection, the
 48 commission may authorize its use in lieu of the identification card required by subsection
 49 (g) of this Code section.

50 (7) When the individual to whom the access badge is issued is wearing the badge in a
 51 readily visible manner, such individual shall be granted access to the state capitol and the
 52 Coverdell Legislative Office Building in the same manner as members of the General
 53 Assembly.

54 (8) Access badges shall be valid only for the two-year session of the General Assembly
 55 in which they are issued and are subject to revocation if the individual commits any act
 56 which places such individual in one or more of the categories of persons listed in
 57 paragraph (4) of this subsection or which causes such individual to be barred from
 58 entering the state capitol or the Coverdell Legislative Office Building by the Capitol
 59 Police or Georgia State Patrol."

60 **SECTION 2.**

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