

House Bill 973 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Burns of the 159<sup>th</sup>, England of the 116<sup>th</sup>, Trammell of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, and Nix of the 69<sup>th</sup>

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 that lobbyists shall acknowledge receiving, reading, and  
3 agreeing to abide by the sexual harassment policy of the General Assembly as a condition  
4 to lobbyist registration; to provide that violation of the sexual harassment policy by a lobbyist  
5 shall be grounds for sanctioning such lobbyist; to provide that complaints regarding violation  
6 of the sexual harassment policy of the General Assembly by any lobbyist may be reported  
7 to the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission by the  
8 General Assembly with recommendations for sanctions; to provide for related matters; to  
9 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

12 Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics in  
13 government, is amended by revising subsections (b) and (d) of Code Section 21-5-71,  
14 relating to registration required, application for registration, supplemental registration,  
15 expiration, docket, fees, identification cards, public rosters, and exemptions, as follows:

16 "(b) Each lobbyist who is required to register under this article shall file an application for  
17 registration with the commission. The application shall be verified by the applicant and  
18 shall contain:

- 19 (1) The applicant's name, address, and telephone number;
- 20 (2) The name, address, and telephone number of the person or agency that employs,  
21 appoints, or authorizes the applicant to lobby on its behalf;
- 22 (3) A statement of the general business or purpose of each person, firm, corporation,  
23 association, or agency the applicant represents;
- 24 (4) If the applicant represents a membership group other than an agency or corporation,  
25 the general purpose and approximate number of members of the organization;

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

28 (6) If the applicant is a lobbyist attempting to influence rule making or purchasing by a  
29 state agency or agencies, the name of the state agency or agencies before which the  
30 applicant engages in lobbying;

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

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

40 (9) A statement by the applicant verifying that the applicant has received the Georgia  
41 General Assembly Employee Sexual Harassment Policy as set forth in the Georgia  
42 General Assembly Handbook, has read and understands the policy, and agrees to abide  
43 by the policy.

44 The commission shall retain on file the statement required pursuant to paragraph (9) of this  
45 subsection and any renewal statements under subsection (d) of this Code section for the  
46 duration of the lobbyist's registration period. A copy of such statement shall be sent to the  
47 Legislative Fiscal Office."

48 "(d) Each registration under this Code section shall expire on December 31 of each year.  
49 The commission may establish renewal procedures for those applicants desiring continuous  
50 registrations. Previously filed information may be incorporated by reference; provided,  
51 however, that the statement regarding the sexual harassment policy required under  
52 paragraph (9) of subsection (b) of this Code section shall be signed and filed each year as  
53 a part of the renewal process."

54 **SECTION 2.**

55 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new subsection to Code Section 21-5-72,  
56 relating to denial, suspension, or revocation of registration, reinstatement, and civil penalty,  
57 to read as follows:

58 "(a.1) In addition to other penalties provided in this article, the commission may by order  
59 suspend or revoke the registration of a lobbyist or impose a civil penalty not to exceed  
60 \$1,000.00 for each violation of the sexual harassment policy of the General Assembly. The  
61 commission may receive reports of violations of the sexual harassment policy of the

62 General Assembly by lobbyists and recommendations for sanctions from the Legislative  
63 Services Committee of the General Assembly."

64 **SECTION 3.**

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