

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 670

Date: 5/17/21

(Filing No. H-155)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 497, L.D. 670, "An Act To Increase the Lobbyist Registration Fee"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §313, as amended by PL 2019, c. 587, §7 and affected by §18, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§313. Registration of lobbyists, lobbyist associates and employers

1. Registration. No later than 15 business days after lobbying more than 8 hours in a calendar month on behalf of an employer, a lobbyist shall submit a joint registration to the commission for the employer, the lobbyist and any lobbyist associates and pay a registration fee of \$250. The lobbyist shall pay an additional \$125 for each lobbyist associate included in the joint registration.

2. Fee waiver. The commission may waive the fee or fees required under subsection 1 in whole or in part if the commission determines that the fee or fees constitute an economic hardship to the employer. A lobbyist or employer may submit an application for a waiver under this subsection on a form or in the format approved by the commission. After receiving an application for a fee waiver, the commission may request relevant information from the lobbyist or employer, including, but not limited to, the amount of compensation the employer expects to pay the lobbyist in the coming lobbying year, the employer's budgeted expenditures for personnel or for all programs and activities in the coming year and the employer's revenues or expenses in the prior year.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES, COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL
Governmental Ethics and Election Practices - Commission on 0414**

Initiative: Provides ongoing allocations for expenditures related to administering and enforcing lobbyist disclosure requirements, including the costs of obtaining, maintaining

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 497, L.D. 670

1 and upgrading technology to facilitate disclosure of lobbying and campaign finance
2 information to the public.

3	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
4	All Other	\$31,350	\$26,350
5			
6	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$31,350</u>	<u>\$26,350</u>
7			

8 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
9 number to read consecutively.

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This amendment authorizes the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election
12 Practices to waive, in whole or in part, the fee imposed when a lobbyist and the lobbyist's
13 employer jointly register with the commission if the commission determines that the fee
14 constitutes an economic hardship to the lobbyist's employer.

15 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

16 **(See attached)**



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 670

LR 1984(02)

An Act To Increase the Lobbyist Registration Fee

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-155)

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$31,350	\$26,350	\$31,350	\$26,350
Revenue				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$31,350	\$26,350	\$31,350	\$26,350

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill increases the registration fee for lobbyists from \$200 to \$250 and the registration fee for lobbyist associates from \$100 to \$125 and would allow the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices (the Commission) to waive the fees if they determine the fee would constitute an economic hardship to the lobbyist or employer of the lobbyist. The increased fees will result in additional Other Special Revenue Funds revenue of \$31,350 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$26,350 in fiscal year 2022-23. The bill includes corresponding allocations to the Commission to allow for the expenditure of the additional revenue. Provisions in the bill that allow the Commission to waive the fees are not anticipated to result in a significant revenue loss due to the limited number of lobbyists and employers anticipated to receive a waiver.