

Subject Lobbyist reporting

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Overview

This bill implements a number of policy items related to lobbying and local units of government, as recommended by the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Expert witness.</p> <p>Defines the term “expert witness,” which is newly-used later in the bill related to lobbyist reporting requirements.</p>
2	<p>Lobbyist.</p> <p>Modifies an existing set of exceptions to the definition of lobbyist, including an exception for certain local officials, and an exception for expert witnesses.</p> <p>The exclusion for nonelected local officials and employees of political subdivisions is amended so that time spent urging others to communicate with public or local officials; monitoring legislative or administrative action; and related research, analysis, and dissemination of information do not count toward the 50-hour threshold.</p> <p>The expert witness exclusion is amended so that an expert witness who communicates with public or local officials, other than the Public Utilities Commission, is excluded if the communication occurs at a public meeting or is made available to the general public.</p>
3	<p>Metropolitan governmental unit.</p> <p>Modifies and reorganizes an existing definition of the term “metropolitan governmental unit.” The term includes a regional railroad authority established by a metropolitan-area county, and lists certain other agencies instead of using a cross reference. References to the seven metro area counties and cities with a population</p>

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	over 50,000 in the metropolitan area are eliminated because they are included in the definition of “political subdivision.”
4	Public official. Eliminates certain watershed district officials and county commissioners from the list of “public officials” provided in law.
5	Content. Requires lobbyists to report each expert witness that the lobbyist requested to communicate with public or local officials, along with information related to the work of the expert witness.
6	Disclosure of potential conflicts. Provides a conforming change to reflect changes to the definition of “metropolitan governmental unit” contained earlier in the bill. With that change, some public officials or local officials would have been excluded from the disclosure of potential conflict of interest law. The changes to this section describe the subset of people are currently subject to this law but would have been excluded by the change in definition of “metropolitan governmental unit.”
7	Disclosure required. Includes “elected local officials” in the existing law requiring disclosure to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board by certain officials who represent clients for a fee before entities with administrative rulemaking authority.
8	Time for filing. Provides a conforming change to reflect changes to the definition of “metropolitan governmental unit” contained earlier in the bill. With that change, timelines needed to be added to individuals who would have been excluded. Also specifies timelines for filing for soil and water conservation district supervisors, managers of watershed districts, and members of watershed management organizations.
9	Place for filing. Specifies that county commissioners, soil and water conservation district supervisors, managers of watershed districts, and members of watershed management organizations file statements of economic interest with the Board.



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