

Session 109 - (1991-1992)

H 3406 General Bill, By Hayes, T.L. Farr, P.B. Harris, D.N. Holt, Martin, Neilson and Sheheen

A Bill to enact "The Ethics in Government Act of 1991" by amending Sections 8-13-20, as amended, 8-13-120, 8-13-230, 8-13-240, 8-13-250, 8-13-260, 8-13-420, 8-13-460, 8-13-620, 8-13-810, 8-13-820, and 8-13-1010, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to ethics in government and campaign practices, so as to revise and add definitions, revise complaint procedures for the State Ethics Commission and the Legislative Ethics Committees, to authorize additional dispositions for legislative Ethics Committees and provide for appeals, to provide for the appropriate action in the House of Representatives and Senate on receiving a report of the appropriate Legislative Ethics Committee or an appeal from the committee action, to provide for the suspension of a member of the General Assembly indicted for certain crimes and his expulsion on conviction, or reinstatement after prevailing on appeal, to establish additional offenses relating to public corruption, make the offense a felony, increase the penalty and include forfeiture of office, to revise the procedure excusing members of the General Assembly from voting on matters that are a conflict of interest, to require additional campaign contribution reporting, to require additional persons to file statements of economic interest, to require a person required to file a statement of economic interest to disclose the state government agencies before which he appears, to amend the 1976 Code by adding Sections 8-13-245, 8-13-495, 8-13-615, 8-13-635, 8-13-637, 8-13-639, 8-13-641, 8-13-643, 8-13-645, 8-13-647, 8-13-649, 8-13-651, 8-13-653, 8-13-655, 8-13-657, 8-13-659, 8-13-661, 8-13-663, 8-13-665, 8-13-667, 8-13-669, 8-13-671, 8-13-673, 8-13-675, 8-13-677, 8-13-679, 8-13-681, 8-13-683, 8-13-685, and 8-13-687, so as to reduce conflicts of interest, prohibit a public official from accepting an honorarium, to limit and regulate campaign contributions, to regulate candidate committees and political action committees, to provide for the use of surplus campaign funds, to prohibit the use of public funds to influence elections and to require distribution of the ethics laws to candidates; to amend Sections 2-17-10, 2-17-20, 2-17-30, 2-17-40, and 2-17-60, relating to regulation of lobbying, so as to require additional regulation of lobbying, including higher registration fees, additional reporting, and increased criminal penalties; to amend the 1976 Code by adding Sections 2-17-25, 2-17-35, 2-17-45, 2-17-55, and 2-17-65 so as to provide for the additional regulation of lobbying, including civil penalties for violations; and to amend Section 16-1-10, as amended, enumerating offenses classified as felonies, so as to include as a felony the offense of corruptly giving, offering, promising, or accepting gifts and gratuities to public officials.

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