**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTIONS 2‑17‑20, 2‑17‑25, 2‑17‑30, 2‑17‑35, AND 2‑17‑40, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, ALL RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION AND REPORTING OF LOBBYISTS AND LOBBYISTS’ PRINCIPALS, SO AS TO INCREASE THE FILING FEE FROM ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS; TO REVISE THE MANDATORY REPORTING PERIODS AND REPORTING DEADLINES; AND TO MAKE CERTAIN TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 2‑17‑20(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A) ~~Any~~ A person who acts as a lobbyist ~~must~~, within fifteen days of being employed, appointed, or retained as a lobbyist, shall register with the State Ethics Commission as provided in this section. Each person registering ~~must~~ shall pay a fee of ~~one~~ two hundred dollars and present to the State Ethics Commission a communication reflecting the authority of the registrant to represent the person by whom he is employed, appointed, or retained. If a partnership, committee, association, corporation, labor organization, or ~~any other~~ another organization or group of persons registers as a lobbyist, it ~~must~~ shall identify each person who will act as a lobbyist on its behalf during the covered period. There is no registration fee for a lobbyist who is a full‑ time employee of a state agency and limits his lobbying to efforts on behalf of that particular state agency.”

SECTION 2. Section 2‑17‑25(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A) ~~Any~~ A lobbyist’s principal ~~must~~, within fifteen days of employing, appointing, or retaining a lobbyist, shall register with the State Ethics Commission as provided in this section. Each person registering ~~must~~ shall pay a fee of ~~one~~ two hundred dollars. If a partnership, committee, an association, a corporation, labor organization, or ~~any other~~ another organization or group of persons registers as a lobbyist’s principal, it ~~must~~ shall identify each person who will act as a lobbyist on its behalf during the covered period. If the State is a lobbyist’s principal, the State is exempt from paying a registration fee and filing a lobbyist’s principal registration statement.”

SECTION 3. The first paragraph of Section 2‑17‑30(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A) Each lobbyist, no later than ~~June thirtieth~~ July tenth and January ~~thirty‑first~~ tenth of each year, ~~must~~ shall file a report with the State Ethics Commission covering that lobbyist’s lobbying during that filing period. The filing periods are from January first to ~~May thirty‑first~~ June thirtieth for the ~~June thirtieth~~ July tenth report, and ~~are~~ from ~~June~~ July first to December thirty‑first for the January ~~thirty‑first~~ tenth report. Any lobbying activity not reflected on the ~~June thirtieth~~ July tenth report and not reported on a statement of termination pursuant to Section 2‑17‑20(C) must be reported no later than January ~~thirty‑first~~ tenth of the succeeding year. Each report must be in a form prescribed by the State Ethics Commission and be limited to and contain:”

SECTION 4. The first paragraph of Section 2‑17‑35(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A) Except as otherwise provided by Section 2‑17‑90(E), each lobbyist’s principal, no later than ~~June thirtieth~~ July tenth and January ~~thirty‑first~~ tenth of each year, ~~must~~ shall file a report with the State Ethics Commission covering that lobbyist’s principal’s expenditures attributable to lobbying during that filing period. The filing periods are from January first to ~~May thirty‑first~~ June thirtieth for the ~~June thirtieth~~ July tenth report, and ~~are~~ from ~~June~~ July first to December thirty‑first for the January ~~thirty‑first~~ tenth report. Any lobbying activity not reflected on the ~~June thirtieth~~ July tenth report and not reported on a statement of termination pursuant to Section 2‑17‑25(C) must be reported no later than January ~~thirty‑first~~ tenth of the succeeding year. Each report must be in a form prescribed by the State Ethics Commission and be limited to and contain:”

SECTION 5. The first paragraph of Section 2‑17‑40(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“(A) Each state agency or department must, no later than ~~June thirtieth~~ July tenth and January ~~thirty‑first~~ tenth of each year, file a report with the State Ethics Commission covering that agency’s lobbying during that filing period. The filing periods are from January first to ~~May thirty‑first~~ June thirtieth for the ~~June thirtieth~~ July tenth report, and ~~are~~ from ~~June~~ July first to December thirty‑first for the January ~~thirty‑first~~ tenth report. Any lobbying activity not reflected on the ~~June thirtieth~~ July tenth report and not reported on a statement of termination pursuant to Section 2‑17‑25(C) must be reported no later than January ~~thirty‑first~~ tenth of the succeeding year. Each report must be in a form prescribed by the State Ethics Commission and be limited to and contain:”

SECTION 6. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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