

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 26-0859.01 Jed Franklin x5484

**SENATE BILL 26-147**

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**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF LOBBYISTS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill allows a person to select a day (advocacy day) that individuals may lobby a covered official on the person's behalf (advocacy day participant). A person who will have an advocacy day participant lobby a covered official on their behalf during an advocacy day must register and file specified information with the general assembly for each advocacy day during which an advocacy day participant is expected to participate. An advocacy day may only occur if the person has filed the form and the general assembly is in a regular or special session.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

An advocacy day participant is not a volunteer or professional lobbyist and is not required to annually register with the secretary of state or complete monthly disclosure statements. An advocacy day participant must not accept compensation for lobbying during an advocacy day, lobby on behalf of a person not registered with the general assembly, lobby outside of a one-mile radius of the state capitol, or lobby on a day other than that designated as an advocacy day.

The bill provides that a lobbyist exclusively employed by a single nonprofit entity who engages in lobbying of covered officials on behalf of the nonprofit entity as an incidental duty of the individual's role is a nonprofit advocate (nonprofit advocate). A nonprofit advocate is not a professional lobbyist but must comply with the registration and disclosure requirements of professional lobbyists.

Currently, each principal department must designate one person who is responsible for lobbying a state official or employee on behalf of the department (legislative liaison). The bill provides that the judicial branch must also have one legislative liaison who lobbies on the judicial branch's behalf (judicial lobbyist). A legislative liaison, a judicial lobbyist, or an individual who lobbies on behalf of the offices of the governor or lieutenant governor as a member of the governor's cabinet or as a personal staff employee in the offices of the governor or the lieutenant governor (governor's lobbyist) must register with the secretary of state annually.

In addition to annually registering with the secretary of state, a legislative liaison, judicial lobbyist, or a governor's lobbyist must file a monthly disclosure statement with the secretary of state (disclosure statement). The bill provides that a legislative liaison, judicial lobbyist, or a governor's lobbyist must indicate on the disclosure statement the bill number of any legislation for which they have lobbied or will lobby a covered official and their position regarding the legislation. The legislative liaison, judicial lobbyist, or a governor's lobbyist must update their position on the disclosure statement within 72 hours of a change in position.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4           (a) Community engagement is the foundation of a democratic  
5 legislative body and is critical to ensure a collaborate environment for  
6 developing sustainable public policy that impacts the state;

1 (b) Community engagement should be conducted in a transparent  
2 manner; and

3 (c) Government transparency is crucial to the democratic process  
4 and the general public should have transparent access to state agency  
5 engagement.

6 (2) Therefore, the general assembly further finds and declares that  
7 it seeks to foster collaboration and policy engagement by the community  
8 through strengthening the state's lobbying transparency laws and  
9 providing greater clarity to ensure a role for all entities and persons to  
10 participate.

11 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-6-301, **amend** (1),  
12 (3.7), and (6); and **add** (1.1), (1.2), (3.8), and (3.9) as follows:

13 **24-6-301. Definitions - legislative declaration.**

14 As used in this part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:

15 (1) ~~"Client" means the person who employs or retains the~~  
16 ~~professional services of one or more lobbyists to undertake lobbying on~~  
17 ~~behalf of that person. For the purposes of this part 3, a professional~~  
18 ~~lobbyist is not a client of another lobbyist for whom he or she undertakes~~  
19 ~~lobbying on a subcontract basis nor is the professional lobbyist a client of~~  
20 ~~either a lobbying firm or any other person that employs or retains one or~~  
21 ~~more professional lobbyists to undertake lobbying on behalf of one or~~  
22 ~~more clients. Where the client is an organization or entity, nothing in this~~  
23 ~~subsection (1) requires the organization or entity to provide the names of~~  
24 ~~any of its shareholders, investors, business partners, coalition partners,~~  
25 ~~members, donors, or supporters, as applicable. "ADVOCACY DAY" MEANS~~  
26 ~~A CALENDAR DAY SELECTED BY A PERSON PURSUANT TO SECTION~~  
27 ~~24-6-303.3 (1)(b).~~

1 (1.1) "ADVOCACY DAY PARTICIPANT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO  
2 LOBBIES A COVERED OFFICIAL IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 24-6-303.3.

3 (1.2) "CLIENT" MEANS THE PERSON WHO EMPLOYS OR RETAINS THE  
4 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF ONE OR MORE LOBBYISTS TO UNDERTAKE  
5 LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF THAT PERSON. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PART  
6 3, A PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST IS NOT A CLIENT OF ANOTHER LOBBYIST FOR  
7 WHOM HE OR SHE UNDERTAKES LOBBYING ON A SUBCONTRACT BASIS NOR  
8 IS THE PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST A CLIENT OF EITHER A LOBBYING FIRM OR  
9 ANY OTHER PERSON THAT EMPLOYS OR RETAINS ONE OR MORE  
10 PROFESSIONAL LOBBYISTS TO UNDERTAKE LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF ONE  
11 OR MORE CLIENTS. WHERE THE CLIENT IS AN ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY,  
12 NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION (1.2) REQUIRES THE ORGANIZATION OR  
13 ENTITY TO PROVIDE THE NAMES OF ANY OF ITS SHAREHOLDERS,  
14 INVESTORS, BUSINESS PARTNERS, COALITION PARTNERS, MEMBERS,  
15 DONORS, OR SUPPORTERS, AS APPLICABLE.

16 (3.7) "Lobbyist" means ~~either~~ a professional LOBBYIST, AN  
17 ADVOCACY DAY PARTICIPANT, A NONPROFIT ADVOCATE, or a volunteer  
18 lobbyist.

19 (3.8) "NONPROFIT ADVOCATE" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL  
20 EXCLUSIVELY EMPLOYED BY A SINGLE NONPROFIT ENTITY WHO ENGAGES  
21 IN LOBBYING OF ONE OR MORE COVERED OFFICIALS ON BEHALF OF THE  
22 NONPROFIT ENTITY AS AN INCIDENTAL DUTY OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S ROLE.

23 (3.9) "NONPROFIT ENTITY" MEANS A PERSON THAT IS REGISTERED  
24 AS AN EXEMPT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION PURSUANT TO 26 U.S.C. SEC.  
25 501 (c)(3) AND THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION PURSUANT TO 26 U.S.C.  
26 SEC. 501 (a) OF THE FEDERAL "INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986".

27 (6) "Professional lobbyist" means a person, business entity,

1 including a sole proprietorship, or an employee of a client, who is  
2 compensated by a client or another professional lobbyist for lobbying.  
3 "Professional lobbyist" does not include any volunteer lobbyist, any state  
4 official or employee acting in ~~his~~ THEIR official capacity, except as  
5 provided in section 24-6-303.5, any elected public official acting in ~~his~~  
6 THEIR official capacity, A NONPROFIT ADVOCATE, AN ADVOCACY DAY  
7 PARTICIPANT, AN EMPLOYEE OF A CLIENT WHO IS ASSISTING A  
8 PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST, UNLESS THE EMPLOYEE'S DUTIES FOR THE CLIENT  
9 INCLUDE LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF THE CLIENT, or any individual who  
10 appears as counsel or advisor in an adjudicatory proceeding.

11 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-6-302, **amend** (5)  
12 as follows:

13 **24-6-302. Disclosure statements - required - definition.**

14 (5) (a) This section ~~shall~~ DOES not apply to any political  
15 committee, volunteer lobbyist, citizen who lobbies on ~~his or her~~ THEIR  
16 own behalf, state official or employee acting in ~~his or her~~ THEIR official  
17 capacity, except as provided in section 24-6-303.5, ~~or~~ elected public  
18 official acting in ~~his or her~~ THEIR official capacity, OR AN EMPLOYEE OF  
19 A CLIENT WHO IS ASSISTING A PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST IF THE  
20 PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DISCLOSURE  
21 REQUIREMENTS MANDATED BY THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE EMPLOYEE'S  
22 DUTIES FOR THE CLIENT INCLUDE LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF THE CLIENT.

23 (b) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO A NONPROFIT ADVOCATE.

24 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-6-303, **amend**  
25 (1.3)(a) and (6); and **add** (1.2) as follows:

26 **24-6-303. Registration as professional lobbyist - filing of**  
27 **disclosure statements - certificate of registration - legislative**

1 **declaration.**

2 (1.2) BEFORE LOBBYING, A VOLUNTEER LOBBYIST SHALL REGISTER  
3 AND FILE WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH JOINT  
4 RULES ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY A REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
5 THAT CONTAINS AN ATTESTATION BY THE VOLUNTEER LOBBYIST THAT THE  
6 VOLUNTEER LOBBYIST IS NOT BEING PAID OR OTHERWISE COMPENSATED  
7 FOR THE LOBBYING.

8 (1.3) (a) At the time a professional lobbyist files a registration  
9 statement in accordance with subsection (1) of this section prior to  
10 engaging in lobbying, and each time such lobbyist files an updated  
11 registration statement in accordance with subsection (1.5) of this section,  
12 ~~such~~ THE individual shall pay a registration fee in an amount ~~that shall be~~  
13 set by the secretary of state by rule ~~promulgated~~ ADOPTED in accordance  
14 with article 4 of this title and ~~shall be~~ set at a level that offsets the costs  
15 to the secretary of state of providing electronic access to information  
16 pursuant to section 24-6-304 (2), and in processing and maintaining the  
17 disclosure information required by this part 3. The secretary of state shall  
18 charge a reduced fee to a professional lobbyist that files ~~his or her~~ THEIR  
19 registration statement pursuant to ~~paragraph (b)~~ of subsection (6.3)(b) of  
20 this section. The secretary of state may waive the fee of a NONPROFIT  
21 ADVOCATE or a professional lobbyist for a ~~not-for-profit organization~~  
22 NONPROFIT ENTITY who derives ~~his or her~~ THEIR compensation solely  
23 from the organization. A volunteer lobbyist ~~shall be~~ OR AN ADVOCACY  
24 DAY PARTICIPANT IS exempt from the requirement to pay the registration  
25 fee mandated by this ~~paragraph (a)~~ SUBSECTION (1.3)(a).

26 (6) (a) This section ~~shall~~ DOES not apply to any political  
27 committee, volunteer lobbyist, citizen who lobbies on ~~his or her~~ THEIR

1 own behalf, state official or employee acting in ~~his or her~~ THEIR official  
2 capacity, except as provided in section 24-6-303.5, ~~or~~ elected public  
3 official acting in ~~his or her~~ THEIR official capacity, OR AN EMPLOYEE OF  
4 A CLIENT WHO IS ASSISTING A PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST IF THE  
5 PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGISTRATION  
6 REQUIREMENTS MANDATED BY THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE EMPLOYEE'S  
7 DUTIES FOR THE CLIENT INCLUDE LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF THE CLIENT.

8 (b) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO A NONPROFIT ADVOCATE.

9 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-6-303.3 as  
10 follows:

11 **24-6-303.3 Advocacy day participant - registration -**  
12 **requirements.**

13 (1) (a) AN ADVOCACY DAY PARTICIPANT MAY LOBBY A COVERED  
14 OFFICIAL ON BEHALF OF A PERSON DURING AN ADVOCACY DAY IF THE  
15 PERSON HAS SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (1)(b) OF THIS  
16 SECTION.

17 (b) A PERSON WHO WILL HAVE AN ADVOCACY DAY PARTICIPANT  
18 LOBBY A COVERED OFFICIAL ON THEIR BEHALF DURING AN ADVOCACY DAY  
19 MUST REGISTER AND FILE WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE  
20 WITH JOINT RULES ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FOR EACH  
21 ADVOCACY DAY DURING WHICH AN ADVOCACY DAY PARTICIPANT IS  
22 EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE, A REGISTRATION STATEMENT SPECIFYING THE  
23 PERSON'S NAME, THE CALENDAR DAY ON WHICH THE ADVOCACY DAY WILL  
24 OCCUR AND WHEN AN ADVOCACY DAY PARTICIPANT WILL LOBBY A  
25 COVERED INDIVIDUAL ON THE PERSON'S BEHALF, THE NUMBER OF  
26 ADVOCACY DAY PARTICIPANTS EXPECTED, AND THE TOPIC OF THE  
27 ADVOCACY.

- 1 (2) AN ADVOCACY DAY MAY ONLY OCCUR WHEN:
- 2 (a) A PERSON HAS FOLLOWED THE REGISTRATION AND FILING  
3 REQUIREMENT IN SUBSECTION (1)(b) OF THIS SECTION; AND
- 4 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS IN A REGULAR SESSION OR A  
5 SPECIAL SESSION.
- 6 (3) AN INDIVIDUAL IS NOT CONSIDERED AN ADVOCACY DAY  
7 PARTICIPANT IF THE INDIVIDUAL:
- 8 (a) ACCEPTS COMPENSATION FOR LOBBYING DURING AN  
9 ADVOCACY DAY;
- 10 (b) LOBBIES A COVERED OFFICIAL ON BEHALF OF A PERSON THAT  
11 HAS NOT REGISTERED AND FILED WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PURSUANT  
12 TO SUBSECTION (1)(b) OF THIS SECTION;
- 13 (c) LOBBIES A COVERED OFFICIAL AT A LOCATION OUTSIDE OF A  
14 ONE-MILE RADIUS OF THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING; OR
- 15 (d) LOBBIES A COVERED OFFICIAL ON A DAY NOT DESIGNATED AS  
16 AN ADVOCACY DAY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(b) OF THIS SECTION.
- 17 (4) AN ADVOCACY DAY PARTICIPANT IS NOT A PROFESSIONAL  
18 LOBBYIST OR A VOLUNTEER LOBBYIST. AN ADVOCACY DAY PARTICIPANT  
19 IS NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS A LOBBYIST WITH THE SECRETARY OF  
20 STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-6-303 OR FILE A DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
21 WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-6-302.

22 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-6-303.5, **amend**  
23 (1)(a), (2)(a) introductory portion, (2)(a)(III), (4) introductory portion,  
24 (4)(g), and (5); **repeal** (4)(c); and **add** (2)(a)(IV) as follows:

25 **24-6-303.5. Lobbying by state officials and employees.**

26 (1) (a) Each principal department of state government, as defined  
27 in section 24-1-110, AND THE JUDICIAL BRANCH shall designate one

1 ~~person~~ INDIVIDUAL who ~~shall be~~ IS responsible for any lobbying of the  
2 type defined in section 24-6-301 (3.5)(a)(I) or (3.5)(a)(III) by a state  
3 official or employee on behalf of ~~said~~ THE principal department OR THE  
4 JUDICIAL BRANCH. All designated ~~persons~~ INDIVIDUALS from the principal  
5 departments, ~~as well as any person~~ JUDICIAL BRANCH, OR AN INDIVIDUAL  
6 lobbying, as defined in section 24-6-301 (3.5)(a)(I) or (3.5)(a)(III), on  
7 behalf of an institution or governing board of higher education OR ON  
8 BEHALF OF THE OFFICES OF THE GOVERNOR OR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AS  
9 A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S CABINET OR AS A PERSONAL STAFF  
10 EMPLOYEE IN THE OFFICES OF THE GOVERNOR OR THE LIEUTENANT  
11 GOVERNOR shall register with the secretary of state by filing a written  
12 statement on or before January 15 of each year. ~~Such~~ THE registration  
13 statement ~~shall~~ MUST be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and  
14 ~~shall~~ MUST include the following:

15 (I) The ~~designated person's~~ INDIVIDUAL'S full legal name, ~~principal~~  
16 ~~department~~ BUSINESS address, and business telephone number;

17 (II) The name of any state official or employee who is lobbying  
18 on behalf of the principal department, JUDICIAL BRANCH, OFFICES OF THE  
19 GOVERNOR OR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, OR AN INSTITUTION OR  
20 GOVERNING BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

21 (III) The name of ~~such person's~~ THE INDIVIDUAL'S division or unit  
22 within the principal department, ~~his~~ JUDICIAL BRANCH, OFFICES OF THE  
23 GOVERNOR OR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, OR AN INSTITUTION OR  
24 GOVERNING BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

25 (IV) The individual's classification or job title; and

26 (V) The address and telephone number of ~~his~~ THE INDIVIDUAL'S  
27 division or unit.

1           (2) (a) In addition to the registration statement filed pursuant to  
2 subsection (1) of this section, the designated ~~person, and any person~~  
3 INDIVIDUAL, AN INDIVIDUAL lobbying on behalf of an institution or  
4 governing board of higher education, AN INDIVIDUAL LOBBYING ON  
5 BEHALF OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH, OR AN INDIVIDUAL LOBBYING ON  
6 BEHALF OF THE OFFICES OF THE GOVERNOR OR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AS  
7 A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S CABINET OR AS A PERSONAL STAFF  
8 EMPLOYEE IN THE OFFICES OF THE GOVERNOR OR THE LIEUTENANT  
9 GOVERNOR shall file, monthly, a disclosure statement with the secretary  
10 of state in accordance with this subsection (2). The secretary of state shall  
11 prescribe the form for such disclosure statement, which ~~shall~~ MUST  
12 include:

13           (III) An estimate of the time spent on lobbying or ~~preparation~~  
14 ~~thereof~~ PREPARING TO ENGAGE IN LOBBYING by ~~any state official or~~  
15 ~~employee~~ THE INDIVIDUAL named in the registration statement or BY any  
16 ~~other~~ employee of the principal department, ~~or~~ JUDICIAL BRANCH, offices  
17 of the governor or lieutenant governor, OR AN INSTITUTION OR GOVERNING  
18 BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION; and

19           (IV) THE BILL OR RESOLUTION NUMBER OF THE LEGISLATION AT  
20 ISSUE AND THE POSITION THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS TAKING REGARDING THE  
21 LEGISLATION. THE POSITION MUST BE INDICATED ON THE DISCLOSURE  
22 STATEMENT AS IN SUPPORT OF THE LEGISLATION, IN OPPOSITION TO THE  
23 LEGISLATION, OR IN SUPPORT OF AMENDING THE LEGISLATION. IF THE  
24 POSITION CHANGES, THE INDIVIDUAL SHALL UPDATE THE POSITION  
25 INDICATED ON THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITHIN SEVENTY-TWO HOURS  
26 OF THE CHANGE.

27           (4) This section ~~shall~~ DOES not apply to the following ~~persons~~

1 INDIVIDUALS:

2 (c) ~~Members of the governor's cabinet and personal staff~~  
3 ~~employees in the offices of the governor and the lieutenant governor~~  
4 ~~whose functions are confined to such offices and who report directly to~~  
5 ~~the governor or lieutenant governor;~~

6 (g) ~~Members, officers, and employees of the judicial branch;~~  
7 ~~specifically, Municipal, state, and federal judges, and the state court~~  
8 ~~administrator, and his THEIR designee; and~~

9 (5) ~~Any person~~ AN INDIVIDUAL who engages in lobbying for a  
10 principal department, THE JUDICIAL BRANCH, THE OFFICES OF THE  
11 GOVERNOR OR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, OR AN INSTITUTION OR  
12 GOVERNING BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION but who is not a state official  
13 or employee shall comply with the requirements of sections 24-6-302 and  
14 24-6-303.

15 **SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
16 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
17 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
18 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a  
19 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
20 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
21 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
22 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
23 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
24 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.