

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

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0044.05 Jed Franklin x5484

**HOUSE BILL 25-1170**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

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**House Committees**

State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF A CHARITABLE TAX-EXEMPT**  
102 **NONPROFIT ENTITY.**

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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>.)*

Currently, a lobbyist may be either a professional lobbyist or a volunteer lobbyist. A professional lobbyist must register with the secretary of state before conducting lobbying activities with one or more covered officials. For each month in which a professional lobbyist lobbies one or more covered officials, a professional lobbyist must complete and submit a disclosure statement to the secretary of state.

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.*

The bill creates a new category of lobbyist for nonprofit lobbyists and exempts nonprofit lobbyists from the registration and disclosure statement requirements for professional lobbyists. A nonprofit lobbyist is a lobbyist who is exclusively employed by a single nonprofit entity and who lobbies as an incidental part of the lobbyist's duties with the nonprofit entity. A nonprofit entity may use a nonprofit lobbyist to lobby a maximum of 30 days during a state fiscal year, with a maximum of 20 of those days occurring when the general assembly is in session. A nonprofit entity that employs a nonprofit lobbyist must report to the secretary of state the following information within 72 hours of engaging in lobbying of one or more covered officials:

- The name of the nonprofit lobbyist;
- The full legal name of the nonprofit entity on whose behalf the nonprofit lobbyist lobbied;
- The date on which the nonprofit lobbyist engaged in lobbying;
- Any matter about which the nonprofit lobbyist lobbied for the reported day; and
- The bill number of the legislation about which each nonprofit lobbyist lobbied for the reported day and whether the nonprofit entity is supporting, opposing, requesting amendments, or monitoring the legislation.

A nonprofit entity may submit a single form for more than one nonprofit lobbyist if more than one nonprofit lobbyist lobbied for the nonprofit entity on the same day.

A lobbyist who was a nonprofit lobbyist but no longer qualifies as a nonprofit lobbyist or who is employed by a nonprofit entity that does not comply with the timing limitations, and who meets the requirements of a professional lobbyist, must register and file disclosure statements with the secretary of state beginning in the month in which the lobbyist first lobbied as a professional lobbyist and must comply with the regulations imposed on a professional lobbyist.

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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) Current law regarding lobbyist registration requires an  
5 individual who engages with covered officials and receives compensation  
6 from the organization for which they are speaking to register as a  
7 professional lobbyist and report to the secretary of state's office;

1 (b) This includes timely reporting of each interaction, payment of  
2 a registration fee, monthly disclosure reports on a year-round basis, and  
3 the acknowledgment of engaging in lobbying activity, and these  
4 requirements apply to employees of nonprofit charitable organizations  
5 classified under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;

6 (c) Current law has had a massive chilling effect on the  
7 engagement by nonprofit charitable organizations with the general  
8 assembly because nonprofit charitable organizations are uncomfortable  
9 with the professional lobbyist title and the need to provide disclosures for  
10 a single or handful of interactions with elected officials;

11 (d) Nonprofit advocates are not lobbyists by trade but are required  
12 to engage on legislation affecting their employer;

13 (e) Nonprofit charitable organizations value transparency and the  
14 desire to share what they are working on, whom they have spoken to, and  
15 what their position on a matter is, but feel the current requirements are  
16 burdensome; and

17 (f) Nonprofit charitable organizations provide a valuable and  
18 unique lens when evaluating legislation because they comprise a large  
19 part of the state and provide an important perspective for the general  
20 assembly.

21 (2) Therefore, the general assembly further finds and declares that  
22 there is a need to provide for a new type of lobbyist registration that  
23 encourages engagement and participation by nonprofit charitable  
24 organizations and provides for transparency that is critical to the  
25 legislative process.

26 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-6-301, **amend**  
27 (3.7) and (6); and **add** (3.8) and (3.9) as follows:

1           **24-6-301. Definitions - legislative declaration.** As used in this  
2 part 3, unless the context otherwise requires:

3           (3.7) "Lobbyist" means either a professional LOBBYIST, A  
4 NONPROFIT ADVOCATE, or a volunteer lobbyist.

5           (3.8) "NONPROFIT ADVOCATE" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL  
6 EXCLUSIVELY EMPLOYED BY A SINGLE NONPROFIT ENTITY WHO ENGAGES  
7 IN LOBBYING OF ONE OR MORE COVERED OFFICIALS ON BEHALF OF THE  
8 NONPROFIT ENTITY AS AN INCIDENTAL DUTY OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S ROLE.  
9 A NONPROFIT ADVOCATE IS NOT A PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST.

10           (3.9) "NONPROFIT ENTITY" MEANS A PERSON THAT IS REGISTERED  
11 AS AN EXEMPT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION PURSUANT TO 26 U.S.C. SEC.  
12 501 (c)(3) AND THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION PURSUANT TO 26 U.S.C.  
13 SEC. 501 (a) OF THE FEDERAL "INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986", AND  
14 THAT HAS TEN MILLION DOLLARS OR LESS IN GROSS REVENUES PER TAX  
15 YEAR.

16           (6) "Professional lobbyist" means a person, business entity,  
17 including a sole proprietorship, or an employee of a client, who is  
18 compensated by a client or another professional lobbyist for lobbying.  
19 "Professional lobbyist" does not include any volunteer lobbyist,  
20 NONPROFIT ADVOCATE, any state official or employee acting in his THE  
21 STATE OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE'S official capacity, except as provided in  
22 section 24-6-303.5, any elected public official acting in his THE ELECTED  
23 PUBLIC OFFICIAL'S official capacity, or any individual who appears as  
24 counsel or advisor in an adjudicatory proceeding.

25           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-6-303, **amend** (6)  
26 as follows:  
27

1           **24-6-303. Registration as professional lobbyist - filing of**  
2 **disclosure statements - certificate of registration - legislative**  
3 **declaration.** (6) This section ~~shall~~ DOES not apply to any political  
4 committee, volunteer lobbyist, citizen who lobbies on ~~his or her~~ THE  
5 CITIZEN'S own behalf, NONPROFIT **ADVOCATE**, state official or employee  
6 acting in ~~his or her~~ THE STATE OFFICIAL'S OR EMPLOYEE'S official capacity,  
7 except as provided in section 24-6-303.5, or elected public official acting  
8 in ~~his or her~~ THE ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL'S official capacity.

9           **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 24-6-307 as  
10 follows:

11           **24-6-307. Employment of unregistered persons.** It is unlawful  
12 for any person to employ for pay or any consideration, or pay or agree to  
13 pay any consideration to, an individual WHO IS NOT A NONPROFIT  
14 **ADVOCATE**, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-6-301 (3.8), to engage in lobbying  
15 who is not registered except upon condition that such individual register  
16 forthwith.

17           **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-6-310 as  
18 follows:

19           **24-6-310. Nonprofit lobbyist - reporting - definition.** (1) A  
20 NONPROFIT **ADVOCATE** IS NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE  
21 SECRETARY OF STATE AS REQUIRED FOR PROFESSIONAL LOBBYISTS BY  
22 SECTION 24-6-303.

23           (2) A NONPROFIT **ADVOCATE** IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A  
24 DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AS REQUIRED FOR PROFESSIONAL LOBBYISTS BY  
25 SECTION 24-6-302.

26           (3) A NONPROFIT ENTITY MAY USE A NONPROFIT **ADVOCATE** TO  
27 LOBBY ONE OR MORE COVERED OFFICIALS NO MORE THAN **TWELVE HOURS**

1 PER STATE FISCAL YEAR. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (3), IF  
2 MULTIPLE NONPROFIT ADVOCATES LOBBY FOR THE SAME NONPROFIT  
3 ENTITY DURING THE SAME SAME THIRTY-MINUTE INCREMENT, THE  
4 LOBBYING OCCURS DURING A SINGLE THIRTY-MINUTE INCREMENT. FOR  
5 PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (3), LOBBYING OF A COVERED OFFICIAL BY  
6 A NONPROFIT ADVOCATE IS MEASURED IN INCREMENTS OF THIRTY  
7 MINUTES. THIRTY MINUTES OR LESS OF LOBBYING OF A COVERED OFFICIAL  
8 BY A NONPROFIT ADVOCATE IS CONSIDERED TO BE THIRTY MINUTES OF  
9 LOBBYING. A NONPROFIT ENTITY MAY USE MULTIPLE NONPROFIT  
10 ADVOCATES DURING A STATE FISCAL YEAR, BUT THE SUM OF THEIR TOTAL  
11 LOBBYING HOURS MUST NOT EXCEED TWELVE HOURS PER STATE FISCAL  
12 YEAR.

13 (4) WITHIN SEVENTY-TWO HOURS OF ONE OR MORE NONPROFIT  
14 ADVOCATES LOBBYING ONE OR MORE COVERED OFFICIALS, THE NONPROFIT  
15 ENTITY EMPLOYING THE NONPROFIT ADVOCATE OR NONPROFIT  
16 ADVOCATES SHALL REPORT THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED IN THIS  
17 SUBSECTION (4) TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE REGARDING EACH  
18 NONPROFIT ADVOCATE WHO LOBBIED ON BEHALF OF THE NONPROFIT  
19 ENTITY. A SINGLE REPORT MAY CONTAIN THE ACTIVITIES OF MULTIPLE  
20 NONPROFIT ADVOCATES IF MORE THAN ONE NONPROFIT ADVOCATE  
21 LOBBIED FOR THE SAME NONPROFIT ENTITY DURING THE SAME DAY. THE  
22 NONPROFIT ENTITY SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF  
23 STATE ON A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, WHICH FORM  
24 MUST NOT REQUIRE ANY INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE FOLLOWING:

- 25 (a) THE NAME OF EACH NONPROFIT ADVOCATE;
- 26 (b) THE FULL LEGAL NAME OF THE NONPROFIT ENTITY ON WHOSE  
27 BEHALF EACH NONPROFIT ADVOCATE LOBBIED;

1 (c) THE DATE ON WHICH EACH NONPROFIT ADVOCATE ENGAGED IN  
2 LOBBYING;

3 (d) ANY MATTER ABOUT WHICH EACH NONPROFIT ADVOCATE  
4 LOBBIED FOR ON THE REPORTED DAY; AND

5 (e) THE BILL NUMBER OF THE LEGISLATION ABOUT WHICH EACH  
6 NONPROFIT ADVOCATE LOBBIED FOR ON THE REPORTED DAY AND  
7 WHETHER THE NONPROFIT ENTITY IS SUPPORTING, OPPOSING, REQUESTING  
8 AMENDMENTS, OR MONITORING THE LEGISLATION. AS USED IN THIS  
9 SUBSECTION (4)(e), "LEGISLATION" MEANS THE PROCESS OF MAKING OR  
10 ENACTING LAW IN WRITTEN FORM IN THE FORM OF CODES, STATUTES, OR  
11 RULES.

12 (5) (a) A LOBBYIST WHO DOES NOT MEET THE DEFINITION OF  
13 "NONPROFIT ADVOCATE" OR A LOBBYIST EMPLOYED BY A NONPROFIT  
14 ENTITY THAT EXCEEDS THE TIMING LIMITATIONS IN SUBSECTION (3) OF  
15 THIS SECTION IS NOT A "NONPROFIT ADVOCATE" AND IS EITHER A  
16 "PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST" OR A "VOLUNTEER LOBBYIST", AS APPLICABLE.

17 (b) IF A LOBBYIST WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY A NONPROFIT ADVOCATE  
18 NO LONGER SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE A NONPROFIT ADVOCATE,  
19 OR IS EMPLOYED BY A NONPROFIT ENTITY THAT EXCEEDS THE TIMING  
20 LIMITATIONS IN SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION AND THE LOBBYIST  
21 INSTEAD SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE A PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST,  
22 THE REGISTRATION REQUIRED OF A PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST BY SECTION  
23 24-6-303, THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT REQUIRED OF A PROFESSIONAL  
24 LOBBYIST BY SECTION 24-6-302, AND ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THIS  
25 PART 3 THAT APPLY TO A PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST APPLY TO THE  
26 LOBBYIST BEGINNING IN THE FIRST MONTH IN WHICH THE LOBBYIST DOES  
27 NOT QUALIFY AS A NONPROFIT LOBBYIST AND INSTEAD QUALIFIES AS A

1 PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST.

2           **SECTION 6. Effective date.** This act takes effect January 1,  
3 2026.

4           **SECTION 7. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
7 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
8 institutions.