

Fifty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2303

Introduced by

Senators Fairfield, Bercier, Seymour, Warner

Representatives Gulleson, Kaldor

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 54-05.1-03 and 54-05.1-04 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to lobbyist registration and reporting requirements and the
3 authority of the secretary of state; and to provide a penalty.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-05.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **54-05.1-03. Registration as a lobbyist - Fee - Filing of information - Public**
8 **inspection - Certificate of registration.**

9 1. a. ~~Any person who shall engage or be engaged by any other person either on a~~
10 ~~part time or on a full time basis for~~ Before engaging in any of the activities
11 listed in section 54-05.1-02, an individual shall, ~~before doing anything in~~
12 ~~furtherance of such purposes,~~ register with the secretary of state and receive
13 a certificate of registration and a distinctive lobbyist identification badge that
14 must be prominently worn by the lobbyist when engaged in any of the
15 activities listed in section 54-05.1-02 while on the capitol grounds. In lieu of
16 wearing the official badge provided by the secretary of state, a lobbyist may
17 wear a reasonable reproduction of the official badge that contains the name
18 of the lobbyist and any of the following: the word lobbyist, the registration
19 number of the lobbyist, or the organization name of the lobbyist in characters
20 no smaller than one-quarter inch [6.35 millimeters].

21 b. The registrant shall state in writing ~~the:~~
22 (1) The registrant's full name and business address, ~~the;~~ and
23 (2) The name and address of ~~the~~ any person or persons upon whose
24 behalf the registrant appears, ~~all persons, corporations, limited liability~~

1 ~~companies, associations, groups, or organizations~~ any person in whose
2 interest the registrant appears or works, the duration of ~~such the~~
3 employment or appearances, and by whom the registrant is paid or is
4 to be paid.

5 c. The registration period commences on July first and expires on June thirtieth
6 of the following calendar year unless an earlier expiration date is requested
7 by the registrant. ~~Lobbyists required to be registered~~

8 d. Each lobbyist shall file with the secretary of state, ~~prior to~~ before the issuance
9 of a certificate of registration, a written authorization to act as a lobbyist.
10 ~~Such~~ The authorization must be signed by the ~~person or~~ official of the
11 corporation, limited liability company, association, group, or organization
12 employing ~~such the~~ lobbyist and may be filed by facsimile transmission.

13 e. The secretary of state shall charge a fee of ~~twenty~~ twenty-five dollars for
14 registering each lobbyist and the first person ~~or entity~~ represented by the
15 lobbyist and an additional fee of five dollars for each subsequent person ~~or~~
16 ~~entity~~ represented by the lobbyist.

17 2. Each ~~person registering to act as a~~ lobbyist shall file, on or before August first
18 following the expiration of the registration period, with the secretary of state a
19 detailed report. The report must include a statement as to each expenditure, if
20 any, of fifty dollars or more expended on any single occasion ~~during the legislative~~
21 ~~session or the interim, as the case may be,~~ including the spouse
22 or other family member of a member of the legislative assembly or the governor, in
23 carrying out the lobbyist's work or include a statement that no reportable
24 expenditures were made during the reporting period. The statement of each
25 expenditure must include a description of the nature of the expenditure, the
26 amount of the expenditure, the date of the expenditure, and the name of the
27 recipient of the expenditure. A state official or agency may not require reporting of
28 lobbyist expenditures other than is required under this subsection. The secretary
29 of state shall provide a prescribed form for reporting ~~pursuant to~~ under this
30 chapter. The secretary of state shall charge and collect fees for late filing of the
31 detailed expenditure report as follows:

- 1 a. Within sixty days after the date provided in this subsection for filing the
2 detailed expenditure report, twenty-five dollars; and
3 b. Thereafter, fifty dollars; ~~and.~~
4 ~~e.~~
5 3. If ~~any currently registered~~ a lobbyist fails to file a detailed expenditure report and
6 pay any late fee by October first, the lobbyist's registration is automatically
7 revoked. The lobbyist's registration may be reinstated if the lobbyist thereafter files
8 the detailed expenditure report and pays any outstanding late fee.
9 ~~3.~~ 4. All information required to be filed under ~~the provisions of~~ this section with the
10 secretary of state and that previously filed must be compiled by the secretary of
11 state within forty days after the close of the period for which ~~such~~ the information is
12 filed and ~~such~~ the files must be open and accessible for public inspection during
13 the normal working hours.

14 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-05.1-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **54-05.1-04. Powers of secretary of state - Granting and revoking of certificates -**
17 **Referrals and reports to the attorney general.**

- 18 1. ~~It is the duty and responsibility of the~~ The secretary of state shall:
19 a. ~~To grant~~ Grant a certificate of registration and ~~to~~ design and furnish a
20 distinctive lobbyist identification badge to any ~~person~~ individual registering
21 under section 54-05.1-03 who supplies the required information ~~therein~~
22 required.
23 b. ~~To revoke~~ Revoke the certificate of registration of any ~~person~~ individual who
24 has been convicted of violating any ~~of the provisions~~ provision of this chapter.
25 c. ~~To refer~~ Refer on the secretary of state's own motion or on the verified
26 complaint of any ~~member of the legislative assembly or on the verified~~
27 complaint of any state official, board, commission, department, or agency, or
28 ~~on the verified complaint of any~~ other person, to the attorney general for
29 investigation, the activities of any ~~person~~ individual who the secretary of state
30 has reason to believe has been acting as a lobbyist and who may be in
31 violation of ~~the requirements of~~ this chapter.

- 1 d. ~~To make~~ Make available upon request of any citizen expenditures by
2 categories reported by registered lobbyists to have been expended on each
3 individual in carrying out that ~~person's~~ registrant's work.
- 4 e. ~~To supply~~ Supply a current list of registered lobbyists for each legislator upon
5 request.
- 6 2. ~~In addition, the~~ The secretary of state may revoke the certificate of registration
7 issued ~~pursuant to~~ under this chapter for failure to file the reports required by this
8 chapter when due, but no certificate may be revoked if, ~~prior to~~ before the last day
9 for filing ~~such~~ the reports, the secretary of state has been informed in writing of
10 extenuating circumstances justifying ~~such~~ the failure.
- 11 3. The secretary of state shall compile and make available to the public a report of
12 the total amount of expenditures reported by registrants.
- 13 4. The secretary of state may establish procedures for registration of lobbyists and
14 filing of lobbyist expenditure reports through the internet or other electronic means,
15 and may make lobbyist expenditure reports available on the secretary of state's
16 internet web site.