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**SENATE BILL 5867**

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**State of Washington**                      **64th Legislature**                      **2015 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Lias, Miloscia, Billig, McCoy, McAuliffe, and Hasegawa

Read first time 02/06/15.      Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Security.

1            AN ACT Relating to enhancing public disclosure of lobbying and  
2 campaign activity; adding new sections to chapter 42.17A RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

4            BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The legislature finds that the public is  
6 entitled to complete disclosure regarding the influence of money in  
7 politics. Therefore, the legislature intends to increase disclosure  
8 by requiring electronic filing by lobbyists.

9            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 42.17A  
10 RCW to read as follows:

11            (1) All agencies required to report under RCW 42.17A.635 must  
12 file all reports required by this chapter electronically over the  
13 internet as provided by the commission under RCW 42.17A.055.

14            (2) No later than January 1, 2017, all lobbyists and lobbyists'  
15 employers required to file reports under RCW 42.17A.600, 42.17A.615,  
16 42.17A.625, or 42.17A.630 must file all reports required by this  
17 chapter electronically over the internet as provided by the  
18 commission under RCW 42.17A.055.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 42.17A  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) The following persons and individuals must pay an annual fee  
4    to the commission:

5        (a) Every political committee and candidate must pay a fee to the  
6    commission, not to exceed one hundred dollars, each calendar year  
7    that the political committee or candidate is required to report under  
8    RCW 42.17A.205, 42.17A.210, 42.17A.220, 42.17A.225, 42.17A.235, or  
9    42.17A.250;

10       (b) Every lobbyist whose total reportable accrued compensation  
11    for lobbying, whether from or on behalf of one or more lobbyists'  
12    employers, was ten thousand dollars or more for the previous calendar  
13    year must pay a fee to the commission, not to exceed one hundred  
14    dollars, each calendar year that it is required to report under RCW  
15    42.17A.600, 42.17A.615, 42.17A.630, or 42.17A.640;

16       (c) Every lobbyist employer whose total reportable accrued  
17    expenses and payments for lobbying, including those through or on  
18    behalf of one or more lobbyists, was ten thousand dollars or more for  
19    the previous calendar year, must pay a fee to the commission, not to  
20    exceed one hundred dollars, each calendar year that it is required to  
21    report under RCW 42.17A.600, 42.17A.615, 42.17A.630, or 42.17A.640;  
22    and

23       (d) Every government entity that employs more than fifty full-  
24    time equivalent employees must pay a fee to the commission, not to  
25    exceed one hundred dollars, each calendar year that it is required to  
26    report under RCW 42.17A.635(5).

27       (2) No person or individual may be required to pay more than one  
28    fee in a calendar year under this section. Any person may appeal a  
29    fee to the commission if more than one fee under this section is  
30    imposed on the person in a calendar year.

31       (3) The commission shall adopt rules and procedures to implement  
32    this section.

33       (4) The commission shall adopt procedures for waiver of all or  
34    part of the fee required under subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this  
35    section based on the size, frequency, and complexity of campaign or  
36    lobbying activity.

37       (5) The legislature shall have the authority to adjust fees  
38    commensurate to the amount appropriate to support the functions of  
39    this program.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    A new section is added to chapter 42.17A  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) The public disclosure electronic filing account is created in  
4    the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from fees paid under  
5    section 3 of this act must be deposited into the  
6    account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for costs  
7    incurred as a result of the design, development, implementation, and  
8    maintenance of:

9        (a) Computer hardware and software or other applications to  
10    accommodate electronic filing of the reports required by this  
11    chapter; and

12        (b) A database and query system compatible with current  
13    architecture, technology, and operating systems that result in  
14    readily available data to the public for review and analysis.

15        (2) Only the executive director of the commission, or the  
16    executive director's designee, may authorize expenditures from the  
17    account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter  
18    43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

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