SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 614

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ROWDEN.

Pre-filed December 1, 2017, and ordered printed.

4580S.01I

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

AN ACT

To repeal sections 105.470, 105.477, and 105.955, RSMo, section 105.473 as enacted by senate bill no. 844, ninety-fifth general assembly, second regular session, and section 105.473 as enacted by house bill no. 1900, ninety-third general assembly, second regular session, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to lobbyist expenditures.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 105.470, 105.477, and 105.955, RSMo, section 105.473

- 2 as enacted by senate bill no. 844, ninety-fifth general assembly, second regular
- 3 session, and section 105.473 as enacted by house bill no. 1900, ninety-third
- 4 general assembly, second regular session, are repealed and four new sections
- 5 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 105.470, 105.473, 105.477, and
- 6 105.955, to read as follows:

105.470. As used in section 105.473, unless the context requires otherwise,

- 2 the following words and terms mean:
- 3 (1) "Elected local government official", any person elected in a
- 4 county, city, town, or village with an annual operating budget of over
- 5 ten million dollars;
- 6 (2) "Elected local government official lobbyist", any natural person
- 7 employed specifically for the purpose of attempting to influence any action by a
- 8 local government official elected in a county, city, town, or village with an annual
- 9 operating budget of over ten million dollars;
- 10 [(2)] (3) "Executive lobbyist", any natural person who acts for the
- 11 purpose of attempting to influence any action by the executive branch of
- 2 government or by any elected or appointed official, employee, department,

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

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division, agency or board or commission thereof and in connection with such activity, meets the requirements of any one or more of the following:

- 15 (a) Is acting in the ordinary course of employment on behalf of or for the 16 benefit of such person's employer; or
- 17 (b) Is engaged for pay or for any valuable consideration for the purpose 18 of performing such activity; or
- 19 (c) Is designated to act as a lobbyist by any person, business entity, 20 governmental entity, religious organization, nonprofit corporation, association or 21 other entity; or
- 22 (d) Makes total expenditures of fifty dollars or more during the 23 twelve-month period beginning January first and ending December thirty-first for 24 the benefit of one or more public officials or one or more employees of the 25 executive branch of state government in connection with such activity.
- An "executive lobbyist" shall not include a member of the general assembly, an elected state official, or any other person solely due to such person's participation in any of the following activities:
- a. Appearing or inquiring in regard to a complaint, citation, summons, adversary proceeding, or contested case before a state board, commission, department, division or agency of the executive branch of government or any elected or appointed officer or employee thereof;
 - b. Preparing, filing or inquiring, or responding to any audit, regarding any tax return, any public document, permit or contract, any application for any permit or license or certificate, or any document required or requested to be filed with the state or a political subdivision;
- 37 c. Selling of goods or services to be paid for by public funds, provided that 38 such person is attempting to influence only the person authorized to authorize or 39 enter into a contract to purchase the goods or services being offered for sale;
- d. Participating in public hearings or public proceedings on rules, grants, or other matters;
- e. Responding to any request for information made by any public official or employee of the executive branch of government;
- f. Preparing or publication of an editorial, a newsletter, newspaper, magazine, radio or television broadcast, or similar news medium, whether print or electronic;
- g. Acting within the scope of employment by the general assembly, or acting within the scope of employment by the executive branch of government

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when acting with respect to the department, division, board, commission, agency or elected state officer by which such person is employed, or with respect to any duty or authority imposed by law to perform any action in conjunction with any other public official or state employee; or

- h. Testifying as a witness before a state board, commission or agency of the executive branch;
- [(3)] (4) "Expenditure", any payment made or charge, expense, cost, debt 55 or bill incurred; any gift, honorarium or item of value bestowed including any food 56 or beverage; any price, charge or fee which is waived, forgiven, reduced or 57 58 indefinitely delayed; any loan or debt which is cancelled, reduced or otherwise forgiven; the transfer of any item with a reasonably discernible cost or fair 59 60 market value from one person to another or provision of any service or granting of any opportunity for which a charge is customarily made, without charge or for 61 a reduced charge; except that the term "expenditure" shall not include the 62 63 following:
 - (a) Any item, service or thing of value transferred to any person within the third degree of consanguinity of the transferor which is unrelated to any activity of the transferor as a lobbyist;
 - (b) Informational material such as books, reports, pamphlets, calendars or periodicals informing a public official regarding such person's official duties, or souvenirs or mementos valued at less than ten dollars;
 - (c) Contributions to the public official's campaign committee or candidate committee which are reported pursuant to the provisions of chapter 130;
 - (d) Any loan made or other credit accommodations granted or other payments made by any person or entity which extends credit or makes loan accommodations or such payments in the regular ordinary scope and course of business, provided that such are extended, made or granted in the ordinary course of such person's or entity's business to persons who are not public officials;
 - (e) Any item, service or thing of de minimis value offered to the general public, whether or not the recipient is a public official or a staff member, employee, spouse or dependent child of a public official, and only if the grant of the item, service or thing of de minimis value is not motivated in any way by the recipient's status as a public official or staff member, employee, spouse or dependent child of a public official;
 - (f) The transfer of any item, provision of any service or granting of any opportunity with a reasonably discernible cost or fair market value when such

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item, service or opportunity is necessary for a public official or employee to perform his or her duty in his or her official capacity, including but not limited to entrance fees to any sporting event, museum, or other venue when the official or employee is participating in a ceremony, public presentation or official meeting 88 89 therein;

- 90 (g) Any payment, gift, compensation, fee, expenditure or anything of value which is bestowed upon or given to any public official or a staff member, 91 92 employee, spouse or dependent child of a public official when it is compensation 93 for employment or given as an employment benefit and when such employment 94 is in addition to their employment as a public official;
 - [(4)] (5) "Judicial lobbyist", any natural person who acts for the purpose of attempting to influence any purchasing decision by the judicial branch of government or by any elected or appointed official or any employee thereof and in connection with such activity, meets the requirements of any one or more of the following:
- (a) Is acting in the ordinary course of employment which primary purpose 101 is to influence the judiciary in its purchasing decisions on a regular basis on behalf of or for the benefit of such person's employer, except that this shall not 102 apply to any person who engages in lobbying on an occasional basis only and not as a regular pattern of conduct; or
 - (b) Is engaged for pay or for any valuable consideration for the purpose of performing such activity; or
- 107 (c) Is designated to act as a lobbyist by any person, business entity, 108 governmental entity, religious organization, nonprofit corporation or association; 109 or
- 110 (d) Makes total expenditures of fifty dollars or more during the twelve-month period beginning January first and ending December thirty-first for 111 the benefit of one or more public officials or one or more employees of the judicial 112 branch of state government in connection with attempting to influence such 113 purchasing decisions by the judiciary. 114
- A "judicial lobbyist" shall not include a member of the general assembly, an 115 116 elected state official, or any other person solely due to such person's participation 117 in any of the following activities:
- 118 a. Appearing or inquiring in regard to a complaint, citation, summons, adversary proceeding, or contested case before a state court; 119
- 120 b. Participating in public hearings or public proceedings on rules, grants,

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121 or other matters;

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- 122 c. Responding to any request for information made by any judge or 123 employee of the judicial branch of government;
- 124 d. Preparing, distributing or publication of an editorial, a newsletter, 125 newspaper, magazine, radio or television broadcast, or similar news medium, 126 whether print or electronic; or
 - e. Acting within the scope of employment by the general assembly, or acting within the scope of employment by the executive branch of government when acting with respect to the department, division, board, commission, agency or elected state officer by which such person is employed, or with respect to any duty or authority imposed by law to perform any action in conjunction with any other public official or state employee;
- [(5)] (6) "Legislative lobbyist", any natural person who acts for the purpose of attempting to influence the taking, passage, amendment, delay or 134 defeat of any official action on any bill, resolution, amendment, nomination, 136 appointment, report or any other action or any other matter pending or proposed in a legislative committee in either house of the general assembly, or in any matter which may be the subject of action by the general assembly and in 138 connection with such activity, meets the requirements of any one or more of the following:
 - (a) Is acting in the ordinary course of employment, which primary purpose is to influence legislation on a regular basis, on behalf of or for the benefit of such person's employer, except that this shall not apply to any person who engages in lobbying on an occasional basis only and not as a regular pattern of conduct; or
 - (b) Is engaged for pay or for any valuable consideration for the purpose of performing such activity; or
- 147 (c) Is designated to act as a lobbyist by any person, business entity, governmental entity, religious organization, nonprofit corporation, association or 148 149 other entity; or
- 150 (d) Makes total expenditures of fifty dollars or more during the twelve-month period beginning January first and ending December thirty-first for 151 152 the benefit of one or more public officials or one or more employees of the 153 legislative branch of state government in connection with such activity.
- 154 A "legislative lobbyist" shall include an attorney at law engaged in activities on 155 behalf of any person unless excluded by any of the following exceptions. A
- 156 "legislative lobbyist" shall not include any member of the general assembly, an

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elected state official, or any other person solely due to such person's participation in any of the following activities:

- a. Responding to any request for information made by any public official or employee of the legislative branch of government;
- b. Preparing or publication of an editorial, a newsletter, newspaper, magazine, radio or television broadcast, or similar news medium, whether print or electronic;
- 164 c. Acting within the scope of employment of the legislative branch of 165 government when acting with respect to the general assembly or any member 166 thereof;
- d. Testifying as a witness before the general assembly or any committee thereof;
- [(6)] (7) "Lobbyist", any natural person defined as an executive lobbyist, judicial lobbyist, elected local government official lobbyist, or a legislative lobbyist;
- [(7)] (8) "Lobbyist principal", any person, business entity, governmental entity, religious organization, nonprofit corporation or association who employs, contracts for pay or otherwise compensates a lobbyist;
 - [(8)] (9) "Public official", any member or member-elect of the general assembly, judge or judicial officer, **elected local government official**, or any other person holding an elective office of state government or any agency head, department director or division director of state government or any member of any state board or commission and any designated decision-making public servant designated by persons described in this subdivision.

[105.473. 1. Each lobbyist shall, not later than January fifth of each year or five days after beginning any activities as a lobbyist, file standardized registration forms, verified by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury, along with a filing fee of ten dollars, with the commission. The forms shall include the lobbyist's name and business address, the name and address of all persons such lobbyist employs for lobbying purposes, the name and address of each lobbyist principal by whom such lobbyist is employed or in whose interest such lobbyist appears or works. The commission shall maintain files on all lobbyists' filings, which shall be open to the public. Each lobbyist shall file an updating statement under oath within one week of any

addition, deletion, or change in the lobbyist's employment or representation. The filing fee shall be deposited to the general revenue fund of the state. The lobbyist principal or a lobbyist employing another person for lobbying purposes may notify the commission that a judicial, executive or legislative lobbyist is no longer authorized to lobby for the principal or the lobbyist and should be removed from the commission's files.

- 2. Each person shall, before giving testimony before any committee of the general assembly, give to the secretary of such committee such person's name and address and the identity of any lobbyist or organization, if any, on whose behalf such person appears. A person who is not a lobbyist as defined in section 105.470 shall not be required to give such person's address if the committee determines that the giving of such address would endanger the person's physical health.
- 3. (1) During any period of time in which a lobbyist continues to act as an executive lobbyist, judicial lobbyist, legislative lobbyist, or elected local government official lobbyist, the lobbyist shall file with the commission on standardized forms prescribed by the commission monthly reports which shall be due at the close of business on the tenth day of the following month;
- (2) Each report filed pursuant to this subsection shall include a statement, verified by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury, setting forth the following:
- (a) The total of all expenditures by the lobbyist or his or her lobbyist principals made on behalf of all public officials, their staffs and employees, and their spouses and dependent children, which expenditures shall be separated into at least the following categories by the executive branch, judicial branch and legislative branch of government: printing and publication expenses; media and other advertising expenses; travel; the time, venue, and nature of any entertainment; honoraria; meals, food and beverages; and gifts;
- (b) The total of all expenditures by the lobbyist or his or her lobbyist principals made on behalf of all elected local government officials, their staffs and employees, and their spouses and

children. Such expenditures shall be separated into at least the following categories: printing and publication expenses; media and other advertising expenses; travel; the time, venue, and nature of any entertainment; honoraria; meals; food and beverages; and gifts;

- (c) An itemized listing of the name of the recipient and the nature and amount of each expenditure by the lobbyist or his or her lobbyist principal, including a service or anything of value, for all expenditures made during any reporting period, paid or provided to or for a public official or elected local government official, such official's staff, employees, spouse or dependent children:
- (d) The total of all expenditures made by a lobbyist or lobbyist principal for occasions and the identity of the group invited, the date, location, and description of the occasion and the amount of the expenditure for each occasion when any of the following are invited in writing:
- a. All members of the senate, which may or may not include senate staff and employees under the direct supervision of a state senator;
- b. All members of the house of representatives, which may or may not include house staff and employees under the direct supervision of a state representative;
- c. All members of a joint committee of the general assembly or a standing committee of either the house of representatives or senate, which may or may not include joint and standing committee staff;
- d. All members of a caucus of the majority party of the house of representatives, minority party of the house of representatives, majority party of the senate, or minority party of the senate;
- e. All statewide officials, which may or may not include the staff and employees under the direct supervision of the statewide official;
- (e) Any expenditure made on behalf of a public official, an elected local government official or such official's staff, employees, spouse or dependent children, if such expenditure is solicited by

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such official, the official's staff, employees, or spouse or dependent children, from the lobbyist or his or her lobbyist principals and the name of such person or persons, except any expenditures made to any not-for-profit corporation, charitable, fraternal or civic organization or other association formed to provide for good in the order of benevolence and except for any expenditure reported under paragraph (d) of this subdivision;

- (f) A statement detailing any direct business relationship or association or partnership the lobbyist has with any public official or elected local government official. The reports required by this subdivision shall cover the time periods since the filing of the last report or since the lobbyist's employment or representation began, whichever is most recent.
- 4. No expenditure reported pursuant to this section shall include any amount expended by a lobbyist or lobbyist principal on himself or herself. All expenditures disclosed pursuant to this section shall be valued on the report at the actual amount of the payment made, or the charge, expense, cost, or obligation, debt or bill incurred by the lobbyist or the person the lobbyist represents. Whenever a lobbyist principal employs more than one lobbyist, expenditures of the lobbyist principal shall not be reported by each lobbyist, but shall be reported by one of such lobbyists. No expenditure shall be made on behalf of a state senator or state representative, or such public official's staff, employees, spouse, or dependent children for travel or lodging outside the state of Missouri unless such travel or lodging was approved prior to the date of the expenditure by the administration and accounts committee of the house or the administration committee of the senate.
- 5. Any lobbyist principal shall provide in a timely fashion whatever information is reasonably requested by the lobbyist principal's lobbyist for use in filing the reports required by this section.
- 6. All information required to be filed pursuant to the provisions of this section with the commission shall be kept available by the executive director of the commission at all times

open to the public for inspection and copying for a reasonable fee for a period of five years from the date when such information was filed.

- 7. No person shall knowingly employ any person who is required to register as a registered lobbyist but is not registered pursuant to this section. Any person who knowingly violates this subsection shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount of not more than ten thousand dollars for each violation. Such civil penalties shall be collected by action filed by the commission.
- 8. Any lobbyist found to knowingly omit, conceal, or falsify in any manner information required pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
- 9. The prosecuting attorney of Cole County shall be reimbursed only out of funds specifically appropriated by the general assembly for investigations and prosecutions for violations of this section.
- 10. Any public official or other person whose name appears in any lobbyist report filed pursuant to this section who contests the accuracy of the portion of the report applicable to such person may petition the commission for an audit of such report and shall state in writing in such petition the specific disagreement with the contents of such report. The commission shall investigate such allegations in the manner described in section 105.959. If the commission determines that the contents of such report are incorrect, incomplete or erroneous, it shall enter an order requiring filing of an amended or corrected report.
- 11. The commission shall provide a report listing the total spent by a lobbyist for the month and year to any member or member-elect of the general assembly, judge or judicial officer, or any other person holding an elective office of state government or any elected local government official on or before the twentieth day of each month. For the purpose of providing accurate information to the public, the commission shall not publish information in either written or electronic form for ten working days after providing the report pursuant to this subsection. The commission shall not release any portion of the lobbyist report if the accuracy

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of the report has been questioned pursuant to subsection 10 of this section unless it is conspicuously marked "Under Review".

- 12. Each lobbyist or lobbyist principal by whom the lobbyist was employed, or in whose behalf the lobbyist acted, shall provide a general description of the proposed legislation or action by the executive branch or judicial branch which the lobbyist or lobbyist principal supported or opposed. This information shall be supplied to the commission on March fifteenth and May thirtieth of each year.
- 13. The provisions of this section shall supersede any contradicting ordinances or charter provisions.]

105.473. 1. Each lobbyist shall, not later than January fifth of each year or five days after beginning any activities as a lobbyist, file standardized 3 registration forms, verified by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties of perjury, along with a filing fee of ten dollars, with the commission. The forms shall include the lobbyist's name and business address, the name and address of all persons such lobbyist employs for lobbying purposes, the name and address of each lobbyist principal by whom such lobbyist is employed or in whose interest such lobbyist appears or works. The commission shall maintain files on all lobbyists' filings, which shall be open to the 10 public. Each lobbyist shall file an updating statement under oath within one week of any addition, deletion, or change in the lobbyist's employment or 11 12 representation. The filing fee shall be deposited to the general revenue fund of 13 the state. The lobbyist principal or a lobbyist employing another person for lobbying purposes may notify the commission that a judicial, executive or 14 legislative lobbyist is no longer authorized to lobby for the principal or the 15 lobbyist and should be removed from the commission's files. 16

- 2. Each person shall, before giving testimony before any committee of the general assembly, give to the secretary of such committee such person's name and address and the identity of any lobbyist or organization, if any, on whose behalf such person appears. A person who is not a lobbyist as defined in section 105.470 shall not be required to give such person's address if the committee determines that the giving of such address would endanger the person's physical health.
- 3. **[**(1)**]** During any period of time in which a lobbyist continues to act as an executive lobbyist, judicial lobbyist, legislative lobbyist, or elected local government official lobbyist, the lobbyist shall file with the commission on

standardized forms prescribed by the commission monthly reports which shall be due at the close of business on the tenth day of the following month;

- 28 (2) Each report filed pursuant to this subsection shall include a 29 statement, verified by a written declaration that it is made under the penalties 30 of perjury, setting forth the following:
- 31 (a) The total of all expenditures by the lobbyist or his or her lobbyist 32 principals made on behalf of all public officials, their staffs and employees, and 33 their spouses and dependent children, which expenditures shall be separated into 34 at least the following categories by the executive branch, judicial branch and 35 legislative branch of government: printing and publication expenses; media and 36 other advertising expenses; travel; the time, venue, and nature of any 37 entertainment; honoraria; meals, food and beverages; and gifts;
- 38 (b) The total of all expenditures by the lobbyist or his or her lobbyist 39 principals made on behalf of all elected local government officials, their staffs and 40 employees, and their spouses and children. Such expenditures shall be separated 41 into at least the following categories: printing and publication expenses; media 42 and other advertising expenses; travel; the time, venue, and nature of any 43 entertainment; honoraria; meals; food and beverages; and gifts;
 - (c) An itemized listing of the name of the recipient and the nature and amount of each expenditure by the lobbyist or his or her lobbyist principal, including a service or anything of value, for all expenditures made during any reporting period, paid or provided to or for a public official or elected local government official, such official's staff, employees, spouse or dependent children;
 - (d) The total of all expenditures made by a lobbyist or lobbyist principal for occasions and the identity of the group invited, the date and description of the occasion and the amount of the expenditure for each occasion when any of the following are invited in writing:
 - a. All members of the senate;

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- b. All members of the house of representatives;
- 55 c. All members of a joint committee of the general assembly or a standing 56 committee of either the house of representatives or senate; or
- d. All members of a caucus of the majority party of the house of representatives, minority party of the house of representatives, majority party of the senate, or minority party of the senate;
- 60 (e) Any expenditure made on behalf of a public official, an elected local 61 government official or such official's staff, employees, spouse or dependent

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children, if such expenditure is solicited by such official, the official's staff, employees, or spouse or dependent children, from the lobbyist or his or her lobbyist principals and the name of such person or persons, except any expenditures made to any not-for-profit corporation, charitable, fraternal or civic organization or other association formed to provide for good in the order of benevolence;

- (f)]. Such report shall contain a statement detailing any direct business relationship or association or partnership the lobbyist has with any public official [or elected local government official]. The reports required by this subdivision shall cover the time periods since the filing of the last report or since the lobbyist's employment or representation began, whichever is most recent.
- 73 4. [No expenditure reported pursuant to this section shall include any 74amount expended by a lobbyist or lobbyist principal on himself or herself. All expenditures disclosed pursuant to this section shall be valued on the report at 75 76 the actual amount of the payment made, or the charge, expense, cost, or obligation, debt or bill incurred by the lobbyist or the person the lobbyist 77 78 represents. Whenever a lobbyist principal employs more than one lobbyist, expenditures of the lobbyist principal shall not be reported by each lobbyist, but 79 80 shall be reported by one of such lobbyists. No expenditure shall be made on behalf of a state senator or state representative, or such public official's staff, 81 82 employees, spouse, or dependent children for travel or lodging outside the state of Missouri unless such travel or lodging was approved prior to the date of the 83 84 expenditure by the administration and accounts committee of the house or the 85 administration committee of the senate.
 - 5.] Any lobbyist principal shall provide in a timely fashion whatever information is reasonably requested by the lobbyist principal's lobbyist for use in filing the reports required by this section.
 - [6.] 5. All information required to be filed pursuant to the provisions of this section with the commission shall be kept available by the executive director of the commission at all times open to the public for inspection and copying for a reasonable fee for a period of five years from the date when such information was filed.
- [7.] 6. No person shall knowingly employ any person who is required to register as a registered lobbyist but is not registered pursuant to this section. Any person who knowingly violates this subsection shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount of not more than ten thousand dollars for each

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98 violation. Such civil penalties shall be collected by action filed by the 99 commission.

- 100 [8.] 7. No lobbyist shall knowingly omit, conceal, or falsify in any manner 101 information required pursuant to this section.
- [9.] 8. The prosecuting attorney of Cole County shall be reimbursed only out of funds specifically appropriated by the general assembly for investigations and prosecutions for violations of this section.
- 105 [10.] 9. Any public official or other person whose name appears in any 106 lobbyist report filed pursuant to this section who contests the accuracy of the 107 portion of the report applicable to such person may petition the commission for 108 an audit of such report and shall state in writing in such petition the specific 109 disagreement with the contents of such report. The commission shall investigate 110 such allegations in the manner described in section 105.959. If the commission determines that the contents of such report are incorrect, incomplete or 111 112 erroneous, it shall enter an order requiring filing of an amended or corrected 113 report.
- 114 [11. The commission shall provide a report listing the total spent by a lobbyist for the month and year to any member or member-elect of the general 115 116 assembly, judge or judicial officer, or any other person holding an elective office 117 of state government or any elected local government official on or before the 118 twentieth day of each month. For the purpose of providing accurate information to the public, the commission shall not publish information in either written or 119 120 electronic form for ten working days after providing the report pursuant to this 121 subsection. The commission shall not release any portion of the lobbyist report 122if the accuracy of the report has been questioned pursuant to subsection 10 of this section unless it is conspicuously marked "Under Review". 123
 - 12.] 10. Each lobbyist or lobbyist principal by whom the lobbyist was employed, or in whose behalf the lobbyist acted, shall provide a general description of the proposed legislation or action by the executive branch or judicial branch which the lobbyist or lobbyist principal supported or opposed. This information shall be supplied to the commission on March fifteenth and May thirtieth of each year.
- 130 [13.] 11. The provisions of this section shall supersede any contradicting 131 ordinances or charter provisions.
- 132 12. No lobbyist principal, lobbyist, or person acting on behalf of 133 a lobbyist principal or lobbyist shall make any expenditure for any

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public official, his or her staff or employees, or his or her spouse or dependent children.

105.477. 1. The commission shall supply an electronic reporting system which shall be used by all lobbyists registered with the ethics commission for filing by electronic format prescribed by the commission. The electronic reporting system shall be able to operate using either the Windows or Macintosh operating environment with minimum standards set by the commission.

- 2. The commission shall have the appropriate software and hardware in place by January 1, 2003, for acceptance of reports electronically. The commission shall make this information available via an internet website connection by no later than January 1, 2004.
 - 3. All lobbyists shall file [expenditure] reports required by the commission electronically as prescribed by the commission. In addition, lobbyists shall file a signed form prescribed by the commission which verifies the information filed electronically within five working days; except that, when a means becomes available which will allow a verifiable electronic signature, the commission may accept this in lieu of a signed form.
- 4. All records that are in electronic format, not otherwise closed by law, shall be available in electronic format to the public. The commission shall maintain and provide for public inspection a listing of all reports, with a complete description for each field contained on the report, that has been used to extract information from their database files. The commission shall develop a report or reports which contain every field in each database.
- 22 5. Annually, the commission shall provide to the general assembly at no 23 cost a complete copy of information contained in the commission's electronic 24 reporting system database files. The information shall be copied onto a medium specified by the general assembly. Such information shall not contain records 25 otherwise closed by law. It is the intent of the general assembly to provide open 26 access to the commission's records. The commission shall make every reasonable 27 28 effort to comply with requests for information and shall take a liberal interpretation when considering such requests. Priority shall be given to public 29 30 requests for reports identifying lobbyist or lobbyist principal expenditures per individual legislator. 31

105.955. 1. A bipartisan "Missouri Ethics Commission", composed of six 2 members, is hereby established. The commission shall be assigned to the office 3 of administration with supervision by the office of administration only for

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budgeting and reporting as provided by subdivisions (4) and (5) of subsection 6 of section 1 of the Reorganization Act of 1974. Supervision by the office of administration shall not extend to matters relating to policies, regulative functions or appeals from decisions of the commission, and the commissioner of administration, any employee of the office of administration, or the governor, either directly or indirectly, shall not participate or interfere with the activities of the commission in any manner not specifically provided by law and shall not 11 in any manner interfere with the budget request of or withhold any moneys 12 appropriated to the commission by the general assembly. All members of the 13 commission shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the 14 senate from lists submitted pursuant to this section. Each congressional district 15 committee of the political parties having the two highest number of votes cast for 16 their candidate for governor at the last gubernatorial election shall submit two names of eligible nominees for membership on the commission to the governor, 17and the governor shall select six members from such nominees to serve on the 18 commission. 19

- 2. Within thirty days of submission of the person's name to the governor as provided in subsection 1 of this section, and in order to be an eligible nominee for appointment to the commission, a person shall file a financial interest statement in the manner provided by section 105.485 and shall provide the governor, the president pro tempore of the senate, and the commission with a list of all political contributions and the name of the candidate or committee, political party, or continuing committee, as defined in chapter 130, to which those contributions were made within the four-year period prior to such appointment, made by the nominee, the nominee's spouse, or any business entity in which the nominee has a substantial interest. The information shall be maintained by the commission and available for public inspection during the period of time during which the appointee is a member of the commission. In order to be an eligible nominee for membership on the commission, a person shall be a citizen and a resident of the state and shall have been a registered voter in the state for a period of at least five years preceding the person's appointment.
- 3. The term of each member shall be for four years, except that of the members first appointed, the governor shall select three members from even-numbered congressional districts and three members from odd-numbered districts. Not more than three members of the commission shall be members of the same political party, nor shall more than one member be from any one United

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40 States congressional district. Not more than two members appointed from the 41 even-numbered congressional districts shall be members of the same political party, and no more than two members from the odd-numbered congressional 42 43 districts shall be members of the same political party. Of the members first appointed, the terms of the members appointed from the odd-numbered 44 congressional districts shall expire on March 15, 1994, and the terms of the 45 members appointed from the even-numbered congressional districts shall expire 46 on March 15, 1996. Thereafter all successor members of the commission shall be 47 appointed for four-year terms. Terms of successor members of the commission 48 shall expire on March fifteenth of the fourth year of their term. No member of 49 50 the commission shall serve on the commission after the expiration of the 51 member's term. No person shall be appointed to more than one full four-year 52 term on the commission.

4. Vacancies or expired terms on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made, except as provided in this subsection. Within thirty days of the vacancy or ninety days before the expiration of the term, the names of two eligible nominees for membership on the commission shall be submitted to the governor by the congressional district committees of the political party or parties of the vacating member or members, from the even- or odd-numbered congressional districts, based on the residence of the vacating member or members, other than from the congressional district committees from districts then represented on the commission and from the same congressional district party committee or committees which originally appointed the member or members whose positions are vacated. Appointments to fill vacancies or expired terms shall be made within forty-five days after the deadline for submission of names by the congressional district committees, and shall be subject to the same qualifications for appointment and eligibility as is provided in subsections 2 and 3 of this section. Appointments to fill vacancies for unexpired terms shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the member whom the appointee succeeds, and such appointees shall be eligible for appointment to one full four-year term. If the congressional district committee does not submit the required two nominees within the thirty days or if the congressional district committee does not submit the two nominees within an additional thirty days after receiving notice from the governor to submit the nominees, then the governor may appoint a person or persons who shall be subject to the same qualifications for appointment and eligibility as provided in

76 subsections 2 and 3 of this section.

- 77 5. The governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, may remove any member only for substantial neglect of duty, inability to discharge the powers 78 79 and duties of office, gross misconduct or conviction of a felony or a crime involving 80 moral turpitude. Members of the commission also may be removed from office by concurrent resolution of the general assembly signed by the governor. If such 81 82 resolution receives the vote of two-thirds or more of the membership of both 83 houses of the general assembly, the signature of the governor shall not be necessary to effect removal. The office of any member of the commission who 84 moves from the congressional district from which the member was appointed shall 85 86 be deemed vacated upon such change of residence.
- 6. The commission shall elect biennially one of its members as the chairman. The chairman may not succeed himself or herself after two years. No member of the commission shall succeed as chairman any member of the same political party as himself or herself. At least four members are necessary to constitute a quorum, and at least four affirmative votes shall be required for any action or recommendation of the commission.
- 7. No member or employee of the commission, during the person's term of service, shall hold or be a candidate for any other public office.
- 8. In the event that a retired judge is appointed as a member of the commission, the judge shall not serve as a special investigator while serving as a member of the commission.
 - 9. No member of the commission shall, during the member's term of service or within one year thereafter:
 - (1) Be employed by the state or any political subdivision of the state;
- 101 (2) Be employed as a lobbyist;

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- (3) Serve on any other governmental board or commission;
 - (4) Be an officer of any political party or political organization;
- 104 (5) Permit the person's name to be used, or make contributions, in support 105 of or in opposition to any candidate or proposition;
- 106 (6) Participate in any way in any election campaign; except that a member 107 or employee of the commission shall retain the right to register and vote in any 108 election, to express the person's opinion privately on political subjects or 109 candidates, to participate in the activities of a civic, community, social, labor or 110 professional organization and to be a member of a political party.
- 111 10. Each member of the commission shall receive, as full compensation for

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112 the member's services, the sum of one hundred dollars per day for each full day 113 actually spent on work of the commission, and the member's actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the member's official duties. 114

- 11. The commission shall appoint an executive director who shall serve subject to the supervision of and at the pleasure of the commission, but in no event for more than six years. The executive director shall be responsible for the administrative operations of the commission and perform such other duties as may be delegated or assigned to the director by law or by rule of the commission. The executive director shall employ staff and retain such contract services as the director deems necessary, within the limits authorized by appropriations by the general assembly.
- 12. Beginning on January 1, 1993, all lobbyist [registration and expenditure] reports filed pursuant to section 105.473, financial interest statements filed pursuant to subdivision (1) of section 105.489, and campaign finance disclosure reports filed other than with election authorities or local election authorities as provided by section 130.026 shall be filed with the commission.
- 13. Within sixty days of the initial meeting of the first commission 130 appointed, the commission shall obtain from the clerk of the supreme court or the state courts administrator a list of retired appellate and circuit court judges who did not leave the judiciary as a result of being defeated in an election. The executive director shall determine those judges who indicate their desire to serve 134 as special investigators and to investigate any and all complaints referred to them by the commission. The executive director shall maintain an updated list 136 of those judges qualified and available for appointment to serve as special investigators. Such list shall be updated at least annually. The commission shall refer complaints to such special investigators on that list on a rotating schedule which ensures a random assignment of each special investigator. Each special investigator shall receive only one unrelated investigation at a time and shall not be assigned to a second or subsequent investigation until all other eligible investigators on the list have been assigned to an investigation. In the event that no special investigator is qualified or available to conduct a particular investigation, the commission may appoint a special investigator to conduct such particular investigation.
 - 14. The commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities relevant to the impartial and effective enforcement of sections 105.450 to 105.496

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148 and chapter 130, as provided in sections 105.955 to 105.963:

- (1) Receive and review complaints regarding alleged violation of sections 105.450 to 105.496 and chapter 130, conduct initial reviews and investigations 150 regarding such complaints as provided herein; refer complaints to appropriate 151152 prosecuting authorities and appropriate disciplinary authorities along with 153 recommendations for sanctions; and initiate judicial proceedings as allowed by sections 105.955 to 105.963;
 - (2) Review and audit any reports and statements required by the campaign finance disclosure laws contained in chapter 130, and financial interest disclosure laws or lobbyist registration and reporting laws as provided by sections 105.470 to 105.492, for timeliness, accuracy and completeness of content as provided in sections 105.955 to 105.963;
- (3) Develop appropriate systems to file and maintain an index of all such reports and statements to facilitate public access to such information, except as may be limited by confidentiality requirements otherwise provided by law, including cross-checking of information contained in such statements and 163 164 reports. The commission may enter into contracts with the appropriate filing officers to effectuate such system. Such filing officers shall cooperate as 165 necessary with the commission as reasonable and necessary to effectuate such purposes;
 - (4) Provide information and assistance to lobbyists, elected and appointed officials, and employees of the state and political subdivisions in carrying out the provisions of sections 105.450 to 105.496 and chapter 130;
 - (5) Make recommendations to the governor and general assembly or any state agency on the need for further legislation with respect to the ethical conduct of public officials and employees and to advise state and local government in the development of local government codes of ethics and methods of disclosing conflicts of interest as the commission may deem appropriate to promote high ethical standards among all elected and appointed officials or employees of the state or any political subdivision thereof and lobbyists;
 - (6) Render advisory opinions as provided by this section;
 - (7) Promulgate rules relating to the provisions of sections 105.955 to 105.963 and chapter 130. All rules and regulations issued by the commission shall be prospective only in operation;
 - (8) Request and receive from the officials and entities identified in subdivision (6) of section 105.450 designations of decision-making public servants.

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184 15. In connection with such powers provided by sections 105.955 to 105.963 and chapter 130, the commission may:

- 186 (1) Subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance and testimony.
 187 Subpoenas shall be served and enforced in the same manner provided by section
 188 536.077;
 - (2) Administer oaths and affirmations;
- 190 (3) Take evidence and require by subpoena duces tecum the production of 191 books, papers, and other records relating to any matter being investigated or to 192 the performance of the commission's duties or exercise of its powers. Subpoenas 193 duces tecum shall be served and enforced in the same manner provided by section 194 536.077;
 - (4) Employ such personnel, including legal counsel, and contract for services including legal counsel, within the limits of its appropriation, as it deems necessary provided such legal counsel, either employed or contracted, represents the Missouri ethics commission before any state agency or before the courts at the request of the Missouri ethics commission. Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the Missouri ethics commission as provided for in subsection 2 of section 105.961; and
 - (5) Obtain information from any department, division or agency of the state or any political subdivision reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of evidence which will reasonably assist the commission in carrying out the duties prescribed in sections 105.955 to 105.963 and chapter 130.
- 206 16. (1) Upon written request for an advisory opinion received by the 207 commission, and if the commission determines that the person requesting the 208 opinion would be directly affected by the application of law to the facts presented 209 by the requesting person, the commission shall issue a written opinion advising 210 the person who made the request, in response to the person's particular request, 211 regarding any issue that the commission can receive a complaint on pursuant to 212 section 105.957. The commission may decline to issue a written opinion by a vote 213 of four members and shall provide to the requesting person the reason for the 214 refusal in writing. The commission shall give an approximate time frame as to 215 when the written opinion shall be issued. Such advisory opinions shall be issued 216 no later than ninety days from the date of receipt by the commission. Such 217 requests and advisory opinions, deleting the name and identity of the requesting 218 person, shall be compiled and published by the commission on at least an annual 219 basis. Advisory opinions issued by the commission shall be maintained and made

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220 available for public inspection and copying at the office of the commission during 221 normal business hours. Any advisory opinion or portion of an advisory opinion 222 rendered pursuant to this subsection shall be withdrawn by the commission if, 223 after hearing thereon, the joint committee on administrative rules finds that such 224 advisory opinion is beyond or contrary to the statutory authority of the 225 commission or is inconsistent with the legislative intent of any law enacted by the 226 general assembly, and after the general assembly, by concurrent resolution, votes 227 to adopt the findings and conclusions of the joint committee on administrative 228 rules. Any such concurrent resolution adopted by the general assembly shall be published at length by the commission in its publication of advisory opinions of 229 230 the commission next following the adoption of such resolution, and a copy of such 231 concurrent resolution shall be maintained by the commission, along with the 232 withdrawn advisory opinion, in its public file of advisory opinions. The 233 commission shall also send a copy of such resolution to the person who originally 234 requested the withdrawn advisory opinion. Any advisory opinion issued by the 235 ethics commission shall act as legal direction to any person requesting such 236 opinion and no person shall be liable for relying on the opinion and it shall act 237 as a defense of justification against prosecution. An advisory opinion of the 238 commission shall not be withdrawn unless:

- (a) The authorizing statute is declared unconstitutional;
- (b) The opinion goes beyond the power authorized by statute; or
- (c) The authorizing statute is changed to invalidate the opinion.
- (2) Upon request, the attorney general shall give the attorney general's opinion, without fee, to the commission, any elected official of the state or any political subdivision, any member of the general assembly, or any director of any department, division or agency of the state, upon any question of law regarding the effect or application of sections 105.450 to 105.496, or chapter 130. Such opinion need be in writing only upon request of such official, member or director, and in any event shall be rendered within sixty days that such request is delivered to the attorney general.
- 17. The state auditor and the state auditor's duly authorized employees who have taken the oath of confidentiality required by section 29.070 may audit the commission and in connection therewith may inspect materials relating to the functions of the commission. Such audit shall include a determination of whether appropriations were spent within the intent of the general assembly, but shall not extend to review of any file or document pertaining to any particular

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investigation, audit or review by the commission, an investigator or any staff or person employed by the commission or under the supervision of the commission or an investigator. The state auditor and any employee of the state auditor shall not disclose the identity of any person who is or was the subject of an investigation by the commission and whose identity is not public information as provided by law.

18. From time to time but no more frequently than annually the commission may request the officials and entities described in subdivision (6) of section 105.450 to identify for the commission in writing those persons associated with such office or entity which such office or entity has designated as a decision-making public servant. Each office or entity delineated in subdivision (6) of section 105.450 receiving such a request shall identify those so designated within thirty days of the commission's request.

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