

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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HOUSE BILL 1675

Short Title: Limit Lobbyists Contributions. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Blust; Current and Gulley.

Referred to: Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform, if favorable, Judiciary I.

April 19, 2007

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO FURTHER LIMIT CONTRIBUTIONS BY LOBBYISTS TO
3 POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS OF LEGISLATORS AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH
4 OFFICIALS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 163-278.6 is amended by adding a new subdivision to
7 read:

8 "**§ 163-278.6. Definitions.**

9 When used in this Article:

10 ...

11 (5a) The term 'Constitutional officers of the State' means officers whose
12 offices are established in Article III of the Constitution.

13"

14 **SECTION 2.** Article 22A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes is amended
15 by adding a new section to read:

16 "**§ 163-278.13C. Limitation on contributions by registered lobbyists.**

17 (a) No lobbyist registered under Chapter 120C of the General Statutes shall do
18 any of the following:

19 (1) Make or offer to make a contribution to a legislator, executive branch
20 official, or candidate campaign committee.

21 (2) Make a contribution to any candidate, officeholder, or political
22 committee, directing or requesting that the contribution be made in
23 turn to a legislator, executive branch official, or candidate campaign
24 committee.

25 (3) Transfer any amount of money or anything of value to any entity,
26 directing or requesting that the entity use what was transferred to
27 contribute to a legislator, executive branch official, or candidate
28 campaign committee.

1 (4) Solicit a contribution from any individual, political committee, or other
2 entity on behalf of a legislator, executive branch official, or candidate
3 campaign committee. This subdivision does not apply to a registered
4 lobbyist soliciting a contribution on behalf of a political party
5 executive committee if the solicitation is solely for a separate
6 segregated fund kept by the political party limited to use for activities
7 that are not candidate-specific, including generic voter registration and
8 get-out-the-vote efforts, pollings, mailings, and other general activities
9 and advertising that do not refer to a specific individual candidate.

10 (5) Deliver any contribution made by another to a legislator, executive
11 branch official, or candidate campaign committee.

12 (b) No legislator, executive branch official, or candidate campaign committee or
13 the real or purported agent of that legislator, executive branch official, or candidate
14 campaign committee shall do any of the following:

15 (1) Solicit a contribution from a lobbyist registered under Chapter 120C of
16 the General Statutes.

17 (2) Solicit a third party, requesting or directing that the third party directly
18 or indirectly solicit a contribution from a lobbyist registered under
19 Chapter 120C of the General Statutes or relay to the lobbyist registered
20 under Chapter 120C of the General Statutes the legislator's, executive
21 branch official's, or candidate campaign committee's solicitation of a
22 contribution.

23 (3) Accept a contribution from a lobbyist registered under Chapter 120C
24 of the General Statutes.

25 (c) It shall not be deemed a violation of this section for a legislator or executive
26 branch official to serve on a board or committee of an organization that makes a
27 solicitation of a lobbyist registered under Chapter 120C of the General Statutes as long
28 as that legislator or executive branch official does not directly participate in the
29 solicitation and that legislator or executive branch official does not directly benefit from
30 the solicitation.

31 (d) This section shall not prohibit a lobbyist registered under Chapter 120C of the
32 General Statutes from advising any of the following with regard to contributions to a
33 legislator, executive branch official, or candidate campaign committee:

34 (1) A political committee that employs or contracts with, or whose parent
35 entity employs or contracts with, that lobbyist.

36 (2) Individual members of a political committee described in subdivision
37 (1) of this subsection.

38 (3) The lobbyist's principal as defined in G.S. 120C-100.

39 (e) This section shall not apply to a lobbyist filing a notice of candidacy for
40 office as a member of the General Assembly or a Constitutional officer of the State
41 making a contribution to that lobbyist.

42 (f) As used in this section, the following terms mean:

43 (1) Candidate campaign committee. – As defined in G.S. 163-278.38Z,
44 and that candidate has filed a notice of candidacy for office as a

1 member of the General Assembly or a Constitutional officer of the
2 State.

3 (2) Executive branch official. – As defined in G.S. 138A-3(30)a.

4 (3) Legislator. – As defined in G.S. 120C-100.

5 (g) A violation of this section is punishable by a civil fine in accordance with
6 G.S. 163-278.34 only."

7 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2008.