

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

H.P. 497 - L.D. 670

An Act To Increase the Lobbyist Registration Fee

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §313, as amended by PL 2019, c. 587, §7 and affected by §18, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§313. Registration of lobbyists, lobbyist associates and employers

1. Registration. No later than 15 business days after lobbying more than 8 hours in a calendar month on behalf of an employer, a lobbyist shall submit a joint registration to the commission for the employer, the lobbyist and any lobbyist associates and pay a registration fee of \$250. The lobbyist shall pay an additional \$125 for each lobbyist associate included in the joint registration.

2. Fee waiver. The commission may waive the fee or fees required under subsection 1 in whole or in part if the commission determines that the fee or fees constitute an economic hardship to the employer. A lobbyist or employer may submit an application for a waiver under this subsection on a form or in the format approved by the commission. After receiving an application for a fee waiver, the commission may request relevant information from the lobbyist or employer, including, but not limited to, the amount of compensation the employer expects to pay the lobbyist in the coming lobbying year, the employer's budgeted expenditures for personnel or for all programs and activities in the coming year and the employer's revenues or expenses in the prior year.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES, COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL
Governmental Ethics and Election Practices - Commission on 0414**

Initiative: Provides ongoing allocations for expenditures related to administering and enforcing lobbyist disclosure requirements, including the costs of obtaining, maintaining and upgrading technology to facilitate disclosure of lobbying and campaign finance information to the public.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
------------------------------------	----------------	----------------

All Other	\$31,350	\$26,350
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$31,350</u>	<u>\$26,350</u>