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THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

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**Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs on LD 1415, An  
Act to Expand Reporting Requirements for Legislators and Lobbyists  
April 28, 2025**

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs: I am Dave Haggan and I have the honor of representing the people of Senate District 10, which includes three municipalities in Hancock County and nine municipalities in Penobscot County. I am pleased to present LD 1415, *An Act to Expand Reporting Requirements for Legislators and Lobbyists*.

One of my constituents, a former legislator who is here today, brought me the idea for this bill earlier this year. Back during her legislative service, she had noted this practice but had not figured out how to best address it until recently.

Some legislators work for or are very involved with certain nonprofits. They may ask lobbyists to donate money for these nonprofits causes. Requiring disclosure ensures transparency and confidence by the average Mainer.

California has a law on the books requiring disclosure of such donations. In fact, Governor Newsom agreed to pay a \$13,000 fine to the California Fair Political Practices Commission in 2024 for late filing behested payment reports.

The perception of financial influence undermines confidence in the fairness of democratic institutions. Transparency reassures the public that officials are acting in the public's interest.

Disclosure allows the public and oversight bodies to gauge the prevalence of the practice and ensure that the public has confidence in the process.

To be clear, I do not want to harm nonprofits or prevent people from donating money to them. However, I think it is important that the people of Maine have full access to information regarding the practice and the ability to determine how transparent the practice has been handled.

My constituent will be able to provide much more information on this issue and the proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration.