

House Bill 973 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Jones of the 47th, Burns of the 159th, England of the 116th, Trammell of the 132nd, and Nix of the 69th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics
2 in government, so as to provide that lobbyists shall acknowledge receiving, reading, and
3 agreeing to abide by the sexual harassment policy of the General Assembly as a condition
4 to lobbyist registration; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
5 other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to ethics in
9 government, is amended by revising subsections (b) and (d) of Code Section 21-5-71,
10 relating to registration required, application for registration, supplemental registration,
11 expiration, docket, fees, identification cards, public rosters, and exemptions, as follows:

12 "(b) Each lobbyist who is required to register under this article shall file an application for
13 registration with the commission. The application shall be verified by the applicant and
14 shall contain:

- 15 (1) The applicant's name, address, and telephone number;
- 16 (2) The name, address, and telephone number of the person or agency that employs,
17 appoints, or authorizes the applicant to lobby on its behalf;
- 18 (3) A statement of the general business or purpose of each person, firm, corporation,
19 association, or agency the applicant represents;
- 20 (4) If the applicant represents a membership group other than an agency or corporation,
21 the general purpose and approximate number of members of the organization;
- 22 (5) A statement signed by the person or agency employing, appointing, or authorizing
23 the applicant to lobby on its behalf;
- 24 (6) If the applicant is a lobbyist attempting to influence rule making or purchasing by a
25 state agency or agencies, the name of the state agency or agencies before which the
26 applicant engages in lobbying;

27 (7) A statement disclosing each individual or entity on whose behalf the applicant is
 28 registering if such individual or entity has agreed to pay him or her an amount
 29 exceeding \$10,000.00 in a calendar year for lobbying activities; ~~and~~

30 (8) A statement verifying that the applicant has not been convicted of a felony involving
 31 moral turpitude in the courts of this state or an offense that, had it occurred in this state,
 32 would constitute a felony involving moral turpitude under the laws of this state or, if the
 33 applicant has been so convicted, a statement identifying such conviction, the date thereof,
 34 a copy of the person's sentence, and a statement that more than ten years have elapsed
 35 since the completion of his or her sentence; and

36 (9) A statement by the applicant verifying that the applicant has received the Georgia
 37 General Assembly Employee Sexual Harassment Policy as set forth in the Georgia
 38 General Assembly Handbook, has read and understands the policy, and agrees to abide
 39 by the policy.

40 The commission shall retain on file the statement required pursuant to paragraph (9) of this
 41 subsection and any renewal statements under subsection (d) of this Code section for the
 42 duration of the lobbyist's registration period. A copy of such statement shall be sent to the
 43 Legislative Fiscal Office."

44 "(d) Each registration under this Code section shall expire on December 31 of each year.
 45 The commission may establish renewal procedures for those applicants desiring continuous
 46 registrations. Previously filed information may be incorporated by reference; provided,
 47 however, that the statement regarding the sexual harassment policy required under
 48 paragraph (9) of subsection (b) of this Code section shall be signed and filed each year as
 49 a part of the renewal process."

50 **SECTION 2.**

51 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.