

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1298**

Introduced by

Representatives Steiner, B. Anderson, Dockter, Laning, Rohr

Senators Armstrong, Laffen, O. Larsen

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 11-10, a new section to chapter  
2 40-05, and a new section to chapter 58-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to  
3 prohibiting counties, cities, and townships from contracting with lobbyists; to amend and reenact  
4 section 54-05.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition of lobbyist and  
5 prohibiting lobbyists from receiving public funds from political subdivisions; and to provide a  
6 penalty.

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

8 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 11-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
9 and enacted as follows:

10 **Prohibition on contracting with lobbyist.**

- 11 1. Except as approved by a vote of the majority of electors voting on the question at a  
12 regular or special election or as specifically permitted by law, a county, including a  
13 home rule county or an entity created through a multicounty home rule charter, may  
14 not enter a contract requiring the expenditure of public funds to compensate a person  
15 other than an employee, officer, board member, or volunteer to attempt to:  
16 a. Secure the passage, amendment, or defeat of any legislation by the legislative  
17 assembly;  
18 b. Secure the approval or veto of any legislation by the governor; or  
19 c. Influence decisions made by the legislative management or an interim committee  
20 of the legislative management.  
21 2. A county that violates this section or a county in which the electors vote in favor of a  
22 contract under subsection 1 must forfeit any state-paid property tax relief credit under  
23 section 57-20-07.2.  
24

1       **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 40-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
2 and enacted as follows:

3       **Prohibition on contracting with lobbyist.**

4       1. Except as approved by a vote of the majority of electors voting on the question at a  
5 regular or special election or as specifically permitted by law, a city, including a home  
6 rule city or an entity created through a multicity home rule charter, may not enter a  
7 contract requiring the expenditure of public funds to compensate a person other than  
8 an employee, officer, board member, or volunteer to attempt to:

- 9       a. Secure the passage, amendment, or defeat of any legislation by the legislative  
10 assembly;  
11       b. Secure the approval or veto of any legislation by the governor; or  
12       c. Influence decisions made by the legislative management or an interim committee  
13 of the legislative management.

14       2. A city that violates this section or in which electors vote in favor of a contract under  
15 subsection 1 must forfeit any state-paid property tax relief credit under section  
16 57-20-07.2.

17       **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-05.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19       **54-05.1-02. Applicability - Meaning of lobbyist.**

20       1. This chapter applies to any person who, in any manner whatsoever, directly or  
21 indirectly, performs any of the following activities:

- 22       a. Attempts to secure the passage, amendment, or defeat of any legislation by the  
23 legislative assembly or the approval or veto of any legislation by the governor of  
24 the state.  
25       b. Attempts to influence decisions made by the legislative management or by an  
26 interim committee of the legislative management.

27       2. This chapter does not apply to any person who is:

- 28       a. A legislator.  
29       b. A private citizen appearing on the citizen's own behalf.

- 1           c. An employee, officer, board member, or volunteer, ~~or agent~~ of the state or its  
2           political subdivisions whether elected or appointed and whether or not  
3           compensated, who is acting in that person's official capacity.
- 4           d. Invited by the chairman of the legislative management, an interim committee of  
5           the legislative management, or a standing committee of the legislative assembly  
6           to appear before the legislative management, interim committee, or standing  
7           committee for the purpose of providing information.
- 8           e. An individual who appears before a legislative committee for the sole purpose of  
9           presenting testimony on behalf of a trade or professional organization or a  
10          business or industry if the individual is introduced to the committee by the  
11          registered lobbyist for the trade or professional organization or the business or  
12          industry.
- 13          3. For the purposes of this chapter, persons required to register under this chapter  
14          because of the performance of the activities described in subsection 1 must be known  
15          as "lobbyists".
- 16          4. Except as specifically permitted by law, a lobbyist may not receive public funds from a  
17          political subdivision for the performance of the activities described in subsection 1.

18          **SECTION 4.** A new section to chapter 58-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
19 and enacted as follows:

20          **Prohibition on contracting with lobbyist.**

- 21          1. Except as specifically permitted by law, a township may not enter a contract requiring  
22          the expenditure of public funds to compensate a person other than an employee,  
23          officer, board member, or volunteer to attempt to:
- 24                  a. Secure the passage, amendment, or defeat of any legislation by the legislative  
25                  assembly;
- 26                  b. Secure the approval or veto of any legislation by the governor; or  
27                  c. Influence decisions made by the legislative management or an interim committee  
28                  of the legislative management.
- 29          2. A township that violates this section must forfeit any state-paid property tax relief credit  
30          under section 57-20-07.2.