



1995 SENATE BILL 259

June 23, 1995 - Introduced by LAW REVISION COMMITTEE. Referred to Committee on State Government Operations and Corrections.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 13.625 (7) of the statutes; **relating to:** application of
2 prohibited practices under the lobbying regulation law to reimbursements or
3 payments of certain expenses.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under the lobbying regulation law, it is a prohibited practice for any elective state official, candidate for elective state office, legislative employe or official of a state agency to solicit or accept anything of pecuniary value from a lobbyist or principal, with certain exceptions. One of the exceptions permits the receipt of a reimbursement or payment for actual and reasonable expenses authorized under the statutory code of ethics for state public officials for the activities listed in the code. The code generally prohibits a state public official from accepting or receiving any transportation, lodging, meals, food or beverage, or reimbursement therefor, except that an official may receive and retain a payment or reimbursement of actual and reasonable expenses, and an elected official may retain compensation, for a published work or the presentation of a talk or participation in a meeting relating to state government affairs. The code also permits an official to retain anything of value for activities unrelated to his or her position, activities that primarily benefit the state, payments or reimbursements by a political committee or participation in certain trips or events sponsored by the department of development.

This bill clarifies that the exception under the lobbying regulation law applies only to receipt of a reimbursement or payment for a published work or for the presentation of a talk or participation in a meeting relating to state governmental affairs. Under the bill, therefore, the ethics code exceptions concerning unrelated activities, activities that are primarily for the benefit of the state, political committee activities and activities of the department of development are not exceptions to the prohibited practice under the lobbying regulation law if a lobbyist or principal makes a payment or reimbursement in connection with those activities.

