

GIFTS TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS

2006 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Gregory S. Bell

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill modifies the Lobbyist Disclosure and Regulation Act by requiring that lobbyists, principals, and government officers file detailed expenditure reports when they make gifts having a lower dollar value than currently required.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires that lobbyists, principals, and government officers report more detailed information about expenses made to benefit a public official when the expense is more than \$10; and

- specifies that financial reports should be filed when expenditures have been made in an amount that exceeds the new threshold.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

36-11-201, as last amended by Chapter 27, Laws of Utah 2003

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **36-11-201** is amended to read:

36-11-201. Lobbyist, principal, and government officer financial reporting requirements -- Prohibition for related person to make expenditures.

(1) As used in this section, "public official type" means a notation to identify whether the public official is:

- (a) a member of the Legislature;
- (b) an individual elected to a position in the executive branch;
- (c) an individual appointed to or employed in a position in the legislative branch who meets the definition of public official in Section 36-11-102; or
- (d) an individual appointed to or employed in a position in the executive branch who meets the definition of public official in Section 36-11-102.

(2) (a) (i) Each lobbyist, principal, and government officer shall file an annual financial report with the lieutenant governor on January 10 of each year or on the next succeeding business day if January 10 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. The report shall be considered timely filed if postmarked on its due date.

(ii) The report shall disclose expenditures made to benefit public officials or members of their immediate families as provided in this section.

(iii) If the lobbyist made no expenditures since the last expenditure reported on the last report filed, the lobbyist shall file a financial report listing the amount of expenditures as "none."

(b) The January 10 report shall contain:

(i) (A) the total amount of expenditures made to benefit public officials during the last calendar year; and

(B) the total amount of expenditures made to benefit public officials by public official type during the last calendar year;

(ii) (A) the total travel expenditures that the lobbyist, principal, or government officer made to benefit public officials and their immediate families during the last calendar year; and

(B) the total travel expenditures that the lobbyist, principal, or government officer made to benefit public officials and their immediate families by public official type during the last calendar year; and

(C) a travel expenditure statement that:

- 59 (I) describes the destination of each trip and its purpose;
- 60 (II) identifies the total amount of expenditures made to benefit each public official and
61 members of the public official's immediate family for each trip;
- 62 (III) names all individuals that took each trip;
- 63 (IV) identifies the public official type to which each public official belongs;
- 64 (V) provides the name and address of the organization that sponsored each trip; and
- 65 (VI) identifies specific expenditures for food, lodging, gifts, and sidetrips;
- 66 (iii) for aggregate daily expenditures made to benefit public officials or members of
67 their immediate families that are not reportable under Subsection (2)(b):
- 68 (A) when the amount does not exceed [~~\$50~~] \$10 per person:
- 69 (I) the date of the expenditure;
- 70 (II) the purpose of the expenditure;
- 71 (III) the public official type to which each public official belongs; and
- 72 (IV) the total monetary worth of the benefit conferred on the public officials or
73 members of their immediate families;
- 74 (B) when the amount exceeds [~~\$50~~] \$10 per person:
- 75 (I) the date, location, and purpose of the event, activity, or expenditure;
- 76 (II) the name of the public official or member of the public official's immediate family
77 who attended the event or activity or received the benefit of the expenditure;
- 78 (III) the public official type to which each public official belongs; and
- 79 (IV) the total monetary worth of the benefit conferred on the public official or member
80 of the public official's immediate family;
- 81 (iv) a list of each public official who was employed by the lobbyist, principal, or
82 government officer or who performed work as an independent contractor for the lobbyist,
83 principal, or government officer during the last year that details the nature of the employment
84 or contract;
- 85 (v) each bill or resolution by number and short title on behalf of which the lobbyist,
86 principal, or government officer made an expenditure to a public official for which a report is
87 required by this section, if any;
- 88 (vi) a description of each executive action on behalf of which the lobbyist, principal, or
89 government officer made an expenditure to a public official for which a report is required by

90 this section, if any; and

91 (vii) the general purposes, interests, and nature of the organization or organizations that
92 the lobbyist, principal, or government officer filing the report represents.

93 (c) In reporting expenditures under this section for events to which all legislators are
94 invited, each lobbyist, principal, and government officer:

95 (i) may not divide the cost of the event by the number of legislators who actually attend
96 the event and report that cost as an expenditure made to those legislators;

97 (ii) shall divide the total cost by the total number of Utah legislators and others invited
98 to the event and report that quotient as the amount expended for each legislator who actually
99 attended the event; and

100 (iii) may not report any expenditure as made to a legislator who did not attend the
101 event.

102 (3) (a) As used in this Subsection (3):

103 (i) "Lobbyist group" means two or more lobbyists, principals, government officers, and
104 any combination of lobbyists, principals, and officers who each contribute a portion of an
105 expenditure made to benefit a public official or member of his immediate family.

106 (ii) "Multiclient lobbyist" means a single lobbyist, principal, or government officer
107 who represents two or more clients and divides the aggregate daily expenditure made to benefit
108 a public official or member of his immediate family between two or more of those clients.

109 (b) When a lobbyist group combines to make aggregate daily expenditures to benefit
110 public officials or members of their immediate families, and the total aggregate daily
111 expenditure of the lobbyist group exceeds [~~\$50~~] \$10 per person, each member of the lobbyist
112 group shall disclose on the reports required by this section:

113 (i) the date, location, and purpose of the event, activity, or expenditure;

114 (ii) the name of the public official or member of the public official's immediate family
115 who attended the event or activity or received the benefit of the expenditure;

116 (iii) the public official type to which each public official belongs;

117 (iv) the total monetary worth of the benefit conferred on the public official or member
118 of the public official's immediate family by the lobbyist group and the total monetary worth of
119 the benefit conferred upon the public official or member of the public official's immediate
120 family by the lobbyist, principal, or government officer filing the report;

(v) each bill or resolution by number and short title on behalf of which the lobbyist, principal, or government officer made an expenditure to a public official for which a report is required by this section, if any;

(vi) a description of each executive action on behalf of which the lobbyist, principal, or government officer made an expenditure to a public official for which a report is required by this section, if any; and

(vii) the general purposes, interests, and nature of the organization or organizations that the lobbyist, principal, or government officer filing the report represents.

(c) When a multiclient lobbyist makes aggregate daily expenditures to benefit public officials or members of their immediate families, and the sum of the total aggregate daily expenditure for all of the lobbyist's clients exceeds [~~\$50~~] \$10 for a public official or family member, the multiclient lobbyist shall, for each client, disclose on the reports required by this section:

(i) the date, location, and purpose of the event, activity, or expenditure;

(ii) the name of the public official or member of the public official's immediate family who attended the event or activity or received the benefit of the expenditure;

(iii) the public official type to which each public official belongs;

(iv) the total monetary worth of the benefit conferred on the public official or member of the public official's immediate family by all clients and the total monetary worth of the benefit conferred on the public official or member of the public official's immediate family by the client upon whose behalf the report is filed;

(v) each bill or resolution by number and short title on behalf of which the lobbyist, principal, or government officer made an expenditure to a public official for which a report is required by this section, if any;

(vi) a description of each executive action on behalf of which the lobbyist, principal, or government officer made an expenditure to a public official for which a report is required by this section, if any; and

(vii) the general purposes, interests, and nature of the organization or organizations that the lobbyist, principal, or government officer filing the report represents.

(4) A related person may not, while assisting a lobbyist, principal, or government officer in lobbying, make an expenditure that benefits a public official or member of the public

official's immediate family under circumstances which would otherwise fall within the disclosure requirements of this chapter if the expenditure was made by the lobbyist, principal, or government officer.

(5) (a) Each lobbyist, principal, and government officer who makes expenditures totaling [~~\$50~~] \$10 or more to benefit public officials or members of their immediate families since the date of the last financial report filed shall file a financial report with the lieutenant governor on:

(i) the date ten days after the last day of each annual general session;

(ii) the date seven days before a regular general election; and

(iii) the date seven days after the end of a special session or veto override session.

(b) (i) If any date specified in this Subsection (5) falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the report is due on the next business day or on the next succeeding business day, if the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

(ii) The report shall be considered timely filed if it is postmarked on its due date.

(c) Each report shall contain a listing of all expenditures made since the last expenditure reported on the last report filed in the form specified in Subsection (2)(b) and, when applicable, Subsection (3).

(d) In preparing each financial report, all expenditures shall be reported as of five days before the required filing date of the report.

(6) Each financial report filed by a lobbyist shall contain a certification that the information provided in the report is true, accurate, and complete to the lobbyist's best knowledge and belief.

(7) The lieutenant governor shall:

(a) develop preprinted suggested forms for all statements required by this section; and

(b) make copies of the forms available to each person who requests them.

(8) Each lobbyist and principal shall continue to file the financial reports required by this section until the lobbyist or principal has filed the report due on the first January 10 that is more than 12 months after the date that the lobbyist surrenders, fails to renew, or otherwise ceases to be licensed.

Legislative Review Note

as of 11-18-05 12:42 PM

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Fiscal Note
Bill Number SB0102

Gifts to Public Officials

18-Jan-06

5:09 PM

State Impact

Provisions of this bill can be enacted within existing budgets.

Individual and Business Impact

No fiscal impact.

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst