

April 11, 2025

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 21

The Honorable Javier Martínez, Speaker of the House and
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Honorable Speaker Martínez and Members of the House:

I have decided to veto HOUSE BILL 143, as amended (“HB 143”), which would have required lobbyists or their employers to file activity reports with the Secretary of State that discloses their lobbying activity on proposed, introduced, and passed legislation. While I support the intent of this legislation, HB 143 needs work. For example, it imposes an onerous requirement that lobbyists or their employers file these reports within forty-eight hours of commencing the lobbying activity—including any time their “position on legislation has changed”—irrespective of weekends and holidays. It is also unclear how this requirement applies to lobbying activity that commences on legislation after the adjournment of a legislative session since another subsection of HB 143 simply provides that these reports merely need to be filed “prior to the end of the time period in which the governor may act on legislation.”

Nor is it clear what sort of “change” in “position” would trigger the requirement to file an updated activity report. Suppose a lobbyist’s employer who is supporting a piece of legislation has concerns about a new provision added in committee that they desire to have removed. Would this require an updated activity report if they still support the other portions of the legislation? What if they are now just neutral? HB 143 does not specify.

Additionally, I think it is important that elected officials with a donor base such as legislators (and governors) also be required to disclose their changes in position. I look forward to working with the Legislature in the next session on a bill that really adds transparency and accountability.

Because of these issues, and pursuant to my authority under Article IV, Section 22 of the New Mexico Constitution, I have vetoed HOUSE BILL 143, as amended, enacted by the Fifty-Seventh Legislature, First Session, 2025.

Respectfully yours,

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

RECEIVED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____ 2025

By _____
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____ 2025

By _____
Chief Clerk of the House