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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 35

SHORT TITLE: Lobbying Activity Reports

SPONSOR: Silva

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 2/16/2026 **ANALYST:** Esquibel

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
SOS		Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Bill 164

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

Attorney General's Office

Secretary of State

State Ethics Commission

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill 35

House Bill 35 (HB35) would require lobbyists to file a "lobbying activity report(s)" with the Secretary of State's Office (SOS) disclosing the lobbyist's or lobbyist's employer's lobbying activity on legislation, including any lobbying on the development of legislation prior to its introduction. The lobbying activity report would include specific legislation lobbied; lobbyist's or lobbyist's employer's support, opposition, or other position taken on the legislation; and the name of the lobbyist's employer that lobbied on the legislation, either directly or through the registered lobbyist.

The lobbying activity report shall be accessible via a link on the Legislature's website for each piece of legislation. SOS must maintain access to lobbyist activity reports for 10 years.

The effective date of this bill is January 1, 2027.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Secretary of State's office (SOS) reports HB35 creates a new reporting requirement for lobbyists that would be filed electronically with the SOS. If passed, these technical requirements could be incorporated in the scoping and development of a new ethics e-file system that is already underway.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SOS reports the implementation of a website link on the Legislature's website to a specific report filed by a lobbyist would require new, ongoing coordination with Legislative Council Services.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB35 grants SOS rulemaking authority for the format of reporting.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB164, Lobbying Activity Reports, is similar to HB35 but includes additional requirements.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The Attorney General's Office writes a previous version of the bill introduced in 2025 as HB143 included a provision requiring a new report each time a lobbyist's position changed. It is unlikely that a lobbyist would change their position within 48 hours of commencing lobbying, but unless a subsequent report is filed, a change in lobbying position would not be disclosed in the lobbying report on the Legislature's webpage resulting in confusion. As written, the bill does not clearly address how or if changes of position should be reported after the initial report.

RAE/hg/ct