

Reported Recommending
Ind. Postponed
Passed House
Failed to Pass House
Passed Senate
Failed to Pass Senate

House File 42

January 15, 1947.
Passed on File.

By GENERAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

A BILL FOR

An Act requiring lobbyists to register with the secretary of state and the clerk of the Senate and chief clerk of the House, and specifying requirements therefor and providing a penalty for failure to register and meet said requirements.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 Section 1. Lobbying; prohibited. It shall be unlawful
2 for any agent, attorney or employee of any person, corporation
3 or association interested in any measure pending before the
4 Legislature, or for any person employed for a pecuniary
5 consideration to act as legislative counsel, agent or lobbyist
6 for any person, corporation or association of whatever character,
7 to attempt personally or directly, or by any means, to influence
8 any member of the Legislature to support or oppose, or to vote
9 for or against any measure or claim against the State of Iowa
10 pending therein, otherwise than by appearing before regular
11 committees thereof, when in session, or by public addresses,
12 newspaper publications, or by written or printed statements,
13 arguments or briefs delivered or transmitted to each member of
14 the Legislature.

1 Sec. 2. Legislative Agents, Registration in Office of
2 Secretary of State, Docket of Legislative Appearances. Every

3 person retained or employed for compensation or counsel or
4 agent by any person, firm, corporation or association to promote
5 or oppose directly or indirectly the passage of bills or
6 resolutions by either house or to promote or oppose executive
7 approval of such bills or resolutions, shall, in each and every
8 year, before any service is entered upon in promoting or opposing
9 such legislation, fill in the office of the secretary of state
10 a writing subscribed by such counsel or agent stating the name
11 or names of the person or persons, firm or firms, corporation
12 or corporations, association or associations, by whom or on
13 whose behalf he is retained, or employed, together with a brief
14 description of the legislation in reference to which such service
15 is to be rendered. No notice so filed shall be valid for more
16 than thirty days after the adjournment of the session of the
17 legislature held in the year in which the same is filed. It
18 shall be the duty of the secretary of state to provide a docket
19 to be known as the docket of legislative appearances, with
20 appropriate blanks and indices, and to forthwith enter therein
21 the names of the counsel or agents so retained or employed, and
22 of the persons, firms, corporations, or associations retaining
23 or employing them, together with a brief description of the
24 legislation in reference to which the service is to be rendered,
25 which docket shall be open to public inspection. Upon the
26 termination of such employment the fact of such termination,
27 with the date thereof, may be entered by direction of either
28 such counsel or agent or of the employer.

1 Sec. 3. Same, Compensation on Contingent Basis Prohibited.
2 No person, firm, corporation, or association shall retain or
3 employ any person to promote or oppose legislation for
4 compensation contingent in whole or in part upon the passage
5 or defeat of any legislative measure or measures. No person
6 shall for compensation engage in promoting or opposing
7 legislation except upon appearance entered in accordance with
8 the foregoing provisions of the next preceding section. And no
9 person shall accept any such employment or render any such
10 service for compensation contingent upon the passage or defeat
11 of any legislative measure or measures.

1 Sec. 4. Penalty for Neglect. It shall be the duty of every
2 person, firm, corporation or association, within two months
3 after the adjournment of the legislature, to file in the office
4 of the secretary of state an itemized statement verified by
5 the oath of such person; or in case of a firm, by a member
6 thereof; or in case of a domestic corporation or association, by
7 an officer thereof; or in case of a foreign corporation or
8 association, by an officer or agent thereof; showing in detail
9 all expenses paid, incurred or promised directly or indirectly
10 in connection with the legislation pending at the last previous
11 session, with the names of payees and the amount paid to each
12 including all disbursements paid, incurred or promised to
13 counsel or agents, and also specifying the nature of such
14 legislation and the interest of the person, firm, corporation
15 or association therein. The provisions, however, of this article

16 requiring docket entries shall not apply to duly accredited
17 counsel or agents, of counties, cities, towns, villages, public
18 boards and public institutions; and the provisions hereof shall
19 not be construed as affecting professional services in drafting
20 bills or in advising clients and in rendering opinions as to the
21 construction and effect of proposed or pending legislation where
22 such professional service is not otherwise connected with
23 legislative action. Every person, every member of any firm,
24 and every association or corporation violating any provision of
25 this article, and every person causing or participating in a
26 violation thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, in case
27 of an individual, shall be punishable by imprisonment in the
28 penitentiary or county jail for not more than one year or by a
29 fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or by both; and,
30 in case of an association or corporation, by a fine of not more
31 than one thousand dollars. In addition to the penalties
32 hereinbefore imposed any corporation or association failing to
33 file the statement of legislative expenses within the time
34 required shall forfeit to the state of Iowa the sum of one
35 hundred dollars per day for each day after the expiration of
36 the two months within which such statement is required to be
37 filed, to be recovered in an action to be brought by the
38 attorney general.

1 Sec. 5. This Act being deemed of immediate importance
2 shall take effect from and after its publication in the Iowa
3 Falls Citizen, a newspaper published at Iowa Falls, Iowa, and

- 4 The Spirit Lake Beacon, a newspaper published at Spirit Lake,
- 5 Iowa.

EXPLANATION OF H. F. 42

This is purely a preventive measure. Many individuals in their zeal for some measure in which they are interested do not give any consideration to the many interests of others or the time of the member of the General Assembly and annoy them constantly and without let up.

In order to restrain this undue exemplification of extreme selfishness and to prevent the members of the Assembly from having their time unnecessarily taken from their committees and other duties, this measure is offered.