



HOUSE BILL 677: State Ethics Comm. Revisions

**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	Ethics, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 29, 2015
Introduced by:	Reps. Glazier, Faircloth, Daughtry, Carney	Prepared by:	Denise Adams
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H677-CSST-40		Legislative Analyst

SUMMARY: *House Bill 677 would make various revisions to the State Government Ethics Act and Lobbying Laws.*

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, the State Ethics Commission (SEC) is largely responsible for interpreting the State Government Ethics Act (SGEA) in Chapter 138A of the General Statutes and Lobbying Law in Chapter 120C of the General Statutes. The SEC and the Secretary of State's Office share the administration of the Lobbying Law.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1: Under current law, a gift is defined as anything of monetary value, given or received without valuable consideration by a lobbyist, lobbyist principal, or liaison personnel. Gifts are not permitted to be given to covered persons unless a gift ban exception applies. Section 1 would add a new exception to the definition of gift under the SGEA to include campaign contributions properly received and reported under federal law.

Section 2: The SGEA applies to covered persons, which include specific public servants, identified in statute or by the SEC. Section 2 would add employees of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to the statute that identifies public servants.

Section 3 would retitle subsection (k) of G.S. 138A-12, the statute governing inquiries by the SEC.

Section 4 would make technical and clarifying changes to the statute that governs lobbyist registration procedure.

Section 5: Under current law, the SEC may investigate complaints of violations of the Lobbying Law and must refer certain types of complaints to the Secretary of State. Section 5 would clarify the SEC or the Secretary of State could utilize the services of a hired investigator when conducting investigations under the Lobbying Law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: House Bill 677 would be effective when it becomes law.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



Research Division
(919) 733-2578

* H 6 7 7 - S M T B - 3 1 C S S T - 4 0 - V 2 *