

# Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

*Kevin Condict 271-7875*

**HB 1666-FN**, relative to income reporting requirements for lobbyists.

**Hearing Date:** May 8, 2024

**Time Opened:** 10:15 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 10:25 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Pearl, Carson, Gendreau, Perkins Kwoka and Altschiller

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill requires lobbyists to identify clients and income received from lobbying activity. The bill also authorizes the secretary of state to enforce lobbyist statement requirements.

---

**Sponsors:**

Rep. Potenza

Rep. Read

Rep. Wheeler

Rep. Booras

Rep. Sellers

Rep. Mazur

Rep. Wherry

Rep. Thackston

Rep. Post

Rep. Terry

---

**Who supports the bill:** Rep. Kelley Potenza, Hayden Smith, Janet Lucas, and Daniel Richardson.

**Who opposes the bill:** None.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** None.

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Representative Kelley Potenza, Strafford 19**

- Rep. Potenza introduced House Bill 1666-FN.
- Rep. Potenza said this bill was crafted by a group of bipartisan legislators because of the difficulty in finding information on lobbyists. She said lobbyists have voiced that it is hard to completely fill in their information.
- Rep. Potenza explained there are separate forms lobbyists must fill out, and they must repeatedly fill in the same information. She said it would be easy to

have these forms as fillable PDFs online. She explained that elected officials report online.

- Rep. Potenza stated the current process of looking up lobbyist information is difficult to find, and the forms are not connected to each other.
- Rep. Potenza explained that lobbyists are currently reporting four times per year. This bill changes reporting times to the 31<sup>st</sup> of January and May, as well as the 30<sup>th</sup> of September.
- Rep. Potenza said the only change is showing where money streams are coming from.
- Rep. Potenza stated the effective date of the bill is a mistake. She said it should be January 1, 2025, instead of January 1, 2027.
- Rep. Potenza said that after talking with the Secretary of State's Office, the enforcement mechanism of the bill is what the fiscal note is for. She said it is important that fines and fees are involved if people are not properly reporting. She said the state could generate revenue from this.
- She said she understands the Secretary of State's Office may need a part-time position for this. She suggested that employee could be utilized to track elected officials' reporting as well.
- Rep. Potenza explained that when she was first elected, the process of reporting was hard to follow. She stated that process has been streamlined and said the streamlined process should be offered to lobbyists as well.
- Rep. Potenza said that transparency is key.
- Sen. Carson said the Secretary of State's Office would need time to develop and implement an online system. She asked if Rep. Potenza still wants the Committee to consider moving up the effective date.
  - o Rep. Potenza said that the bill is talking about online PDFs. She noted that lobbyists currently must write the same information four times. She said she does not want the State to spend a lot of money and time on something that is simple. She stated this bill does not reinvent the wheel.
- Sen. Pearl noted that it was the deadline for fiscal note bills. He said the Committee could accept the 2027 date or randomly make a change without consultation with the Secretary of State's Office. He asked if Rep. Potenza could live with the 2027 date.
  - o Rep. Potenza said that was fine if there is the possibility the Secretary of State's Office could implement this policy before that date.
- Sen. Pearl noted that the bill's language only states that the bill must be implemented before that date; there is nothing saying the Office could not do so beforehand.