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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 497, L.D. 670, “An Act To Increase the Lobbyist Registration Fee”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §313**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 587, §7 and affected by §18, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**§313. Registration of lobbyists, lobbyist associates and employers**

**1. Registration.** No later than 15 business days after lobbying more than 8 hours in a calendar month on behalf of an employer, a lobbyist shall submit a joint registration to the commission for the employer, the lobbyist and any lobbyist associates and pay a registration fee of \$250. The lobbyist shall pay an additional \$125 for each lobbyist associate included in the joint registration.

**2. Fee waiver.** The commission may waive the fee or fees required under subsection 1 in whole or in part if the commission determines that the fee or fees constitute an economic hardship to the employer. A lobbyist or employer may submit an application for a waiver under this subsection on a form or in the format approved by the commission. After receiving an application for a fee waiver, the commission may request relevant information from the lobbyist or employer, including, but not limited to, the amount of compensation the employer expects to pay the lobbyist in the coming lobbying year, the employer's budgeted expenditures for personnel or for all programs and activities in the coming year and the employer's revenues or expenses in the prior year.

**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES, COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL  
Governmental Ethics and Election Practices - Commission on 0414**

Initiative: Provides ongoing allocations for expenditures related to administering and enforcing lobbyist disclosure requirements, including the costs of obtaining, maintaining

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 and upgrading technology to facilitate disclosure of lobbying and campaign finance  
2 information to the public.

3	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
4	All Other	\$31,350	\$26,350
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6	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$31,350</u>	<u>\$26,350</u>

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8       Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
9 number to read consecutively.

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**SUMMARY**

11       This amendment authorizes the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election  
12 Practices to waive, in whole or in part, the fee imposed when a lobbyist and the lobbyist's  
13 employer jointly register with the commission if the commission determines that the fee  
14 constitutes an economic hardship to the lobbyist's employer.

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**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

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**(See attached)**