

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to associations of government
 3 officials; creating s. 112.328, F.S.; providing
 4 definitions; requiring associations of government
 5 officials to annually report certain information to
 6 the Commission on Ethics under certain circumstances;
 7 amending s. 216.345, F.S.; providing that membership
 8 dues and other funds received from state sources may
 9 not be used by certain organizations to fund
 10 litigation against the state; providing an effective
 11 date.

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 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 15 Section 1. Section 112.328, Florida Statutes, is created
 16 to read:

17 112.328 Associations of government officials; disclosures;
 18 restrictions.—

19 (1) As used in this section, the term:

20 (a) "Association of government officials" means an
 21 association, organization, trade group, advisory body, or other
 22 entity of any kind whose membership is composed of state
 23 officers or employees. The term includes those entities
 24 receiving funds pursuant to s. 216.345.

25 (b) "State sources" include payments from the state of any
 26 kind, including, but not limited to, membership dues authorized

27 pursuant to s. 216.345, payment for goods and services, local
 28 millage or state tax received, or grants and donations of any
 29 kind.

30 (2) An association of government officials that receives
 31 more than 25 percent of its annual revenue from state sources
 32 must annually submit to the Commission on Ethics the following
 33 information:

34 (a) All sources of revenue received by the association.

35 (b) The salaries of employees and officers of the
 36 association and a description of employment-related benefits
 37 granted to employees and officers of the association.

38 (c) Litigation expenses incurred by the association.

39 (d) A description of all political activities in which the
 40 association has engaged.

41 Section 2. Section 216.345, Florida Statutes, is amended
 42 to read:

43 216.345 Professional or other organization membership
 44 dues; payment.—

45 (1) A state department, agency, bureau, commission, or
 46 other component of state government, or the judicial branch,
 47 upon approval by the head or the designated agent thereof, may
 48 utilize state funds for the purpose of paying dues for
 49 membership in a professional or other organization only when
 50 such membership is essential to the statutory duties and
 51 responsibilities of the state agency.

52 (2) Upon certification by a professional or other

53 organization that it does not accept institutional memberships,
54 the agency or branch may authorize the use of state funds for
55 the payment of individual membership dues when such membership
56 is essential to the statutory duties and responsibilities of the
57 state agency or judicial branch by which the individual is
58 employed. However, approval shall not be granted to pay
59 membership dues for maintenance of an individual's professional
60 or trade status in any association or organization, except in
61 those instances where agency or branch membership is necessary
62 and purchase of an individual membership is more economical.

63 (3) Each agency and the judicial branch shall promulgate
64 specific criteria to be used to determine justification for
65 payment of such membership dues.

66 (4) Payments for membership dues are exempt from the
67 provisions of part I of chapter 287.

68 (5) An organization receiving funds authorized by this
69 section shall not use the funds or other funds received from
70 state sources, as defined in s. 112.328, to pursue litigation
71 against the state.

72 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.