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A bill to be entitled An act relating to ethics reform; repealing s. 11.061, F.S., relating to state, state university, and community college employee lobbyists; creating s. 106.114, F.S.; providing definitions; prohibiting certain public service announcements by specified governmental entities, persons acting on behalf of such entities, and elected officials; providing applicability; amending s. 112.313, F.S.; revising applicability of certain provisions relating to contractual relationships; prohibiting a public officer or employee of an agency from soliciting specified employment or contractual relationships; requiring certain offers and solicitations of employment or contractual relationships to be disclosed to certain persons; requiring such disclosures to the Commission on Ethics in certain circumstances; authorizing the commission to investigate such disclosures; providing a definition; prohibiting legislators, statewide elected officers, appointed state officers, and agency directors from certain compensated representation for a specified period following vacation of office; deleting a provision prohibiting former legislators from acting as lobbyists before certain entities and persons for a

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specified period following vacation of office; providing applicability; creating s. 112.3181, F.S.; prohibiting statewide elected officers and legislators from soliciting employment offers or investment advice arising out of official or political activities; prohibiting such officers or legislators from soliciting or accepting investment advice from or soliciting or entering into certain profitmaking relationships with or advised by lobbyists or principals; providing definitions; requiring lobbyists and principals to disclose certain prohibited solicitations to the commission; authorizing the commission to investigate such disclosures; providing disclosure requirements; requiring the commission to publish disclosures on its website; authorizing the commission to adopt rules; amending s. 112.3185, F.S.; providing definitions; prohibiting certain officers and employees from soliciting employment or contractual relationships from or negotiating employment or contractual relationships with certain employers; providing exceptions; requiring disclosure of certain offers of employment or contractual relationships; reenacting and amending s. 112.3215, F.S.; revising definitions; requiring a lobbyist to electronically register with the commission; revising

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51	lobbyist registration, compensation report, principal
52	designation cancellation, and investigation
53	requirements; revising lobbyist registration fees;
54	authorizing the commission to dismiss certain
55	complaints and investigations; providing an effective
56	date.
57	
58	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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60	Section 1. Section 11.061, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
61	Section 2. Section 106.114, Florida Statutes, is created
62	to read:
63	106.114 Elected official advertising
64	(1) As used in this section, the term:
65	(a) "Governmental entity" means any executive, judicial,
66	or quasi-judicial department; state university; community
67	college; water management district; or political subdivision.
68	(b) "Public service announcement" means any message
69	communicated by radio, television, electronic communication, or
70	billboard that promotes or announces an issue of public
71	importance, concern, or welfare.
72	(2) A governmental entity, a person acting on behalf of a
73	governmental entity, or an elected official may not use or
74	authorize the use of an elected official's name, image,
75	likeness, official uniform, badge, or other symbol of office in

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a public service announcement beginning on the date that the elected official qualifies as a candidate, pursuant to s. 99.061 or other applicable law, for reelection or election to another public office and ending on the day after the election for which the elected official qualified as a candidate if such announcement is paid for with public funds or if the time or space for such announcement is donated by the media. This subsection does not apply to charitable events held by an organization with tax-exempt status under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or bona fide news events such as press conferences or public debates broadcast by a licensed broadcaster.

Section 3. Subsections (7), (9), and (15) of section 112.313, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

112.313 Standards of conduct for public officers, employees of agencies, and local government attorneys.—

- (7) CONFLICTING EMPLOYMENT OR CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP.-
- (a) A No public officer or employee of an agency may not shall have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business entity or any agency that which is subject to the regulation of, or is doing business with, the officer's or employee's an agency. This paragraph does not apply to of which he or she is an officer or employee, excluding those organizations and their officers who, when acting in their official capacity, enter into or negotiate a collective

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bargaining contract with the state or any municipality, county, or other political subdivision of the state. Such; nor shall an officer or employee may also not of an agency have or hold any employment or contractual relationship that will create a continuing or frequently recurring conflict between his or her private interests and the performance of his or her public duties or that would impede the full and faithful discharge of his or her public duties.

- 1. When the agency referred to is <u>a</u> that certain kind of special tax district created by general or special law and is limited specifically to constructing, maintaining, managing, and financing improvements in the land area over which the agency has jurisdiction, or when the agency has been organized pursuant to chapter 298, then employment with, or entering into a contractual relationship with, such <u>a</u> business entity by a public officer or employee of such <u>an</u> agency <u>is shall</u> not be prohibited by this subsection or be deemed a conflict per se. However, conduct by such officer or employee that is prohibited by, or otherwise frustrates the intent of, this section <u>must shall</u> be deemed a conflict of interest in violation of the standards of conduct set forth by this section.
- 2. When the agency referred to is a legislative body and the regulatory power over the business entity resides in another agency, or when the regulatory power that which the legislative body exercises over the business entity or agency is strictly

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through the enactment of laws or ordinances, then employment with, or entering into a contractual relationship with, such a business entity by a public officer or employee of such a legislative body is shall not be prohibited by this subsection or be deemed a conflict based on the regulatory power of the legislative body, unless prohibited or deemed a conflict by another law.

- (b) This subsection <u>does</u> shall not prohibit a public officer or employee from practicing in a particular profession or occupation when such practice by persons holding such public office or employment is required or permitted by law or ordinance.
- (c) A public officer or employee of an agency may not solicit any employment or contractual relationship prohibited by this subsection.
- (d) A public officer or employee of an agency must disclose to the head of his or her agency, the general counsel or inspector general of his or her agency, or any other officer or attorney designated by the head of his or her agency any offer of employment or contractual relationship that is prohibited by this subsection.
- (e) If a public officer or employee of an agency, or a person acting on his or her behalf, solicits employment with any business entity or any agency that is subject to the regulation of, or is doing business with, the officer's or employer's

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agency in violation of paragraph (c), the solicited business entity or agency must disclose such solicitation to the head of the officer's or employee's agency. If such solicitation is by or on behalf of the head of the agency or a member of a body that is the head of the agency, the solicited business entity or agency must disclose such solicitation to the commission. The commission may investigate such disclosure as if it were a valid complaint under this part.

- (9) POSTEMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS; STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR LEGISLATORS AND LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEES.—
- (a)1. It is the intent of the Legislature to implement by statute the provisions of s. 8(e), Art. II of the State Constitution relating to legislators, statewide elected officers, appointed state officers, and designated public employees.
 - 2. As used in this paragraph:
 - a. "Employee" means:

- (I) Any person employed in the executive or legislative branch of government holding a position in the Senior Management Service as defined in s. 110.402 or any person holding a position in the Selected Exempt Service as defined in s. 110.602 or any person having authority over policy or procurement employed by the Department of the Lottery.
- (II) The Auditor General, the director of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, the

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Sergeant at Arms and Secretary of the Senate, and the Sergeant at Arms and Clerk of the House of Representatives.

- (III) The executive director and deputy executive director of the Commission on Ethics.
- (IV) An executive director, staff director, or deputy staff director of each joint committee, standing committee, or select committee of the Legislature; an executive director, staff director, executive assistant, analyst, or attorney of the Office of the President of the Senate, the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Majority Party Office, Senate Minority Party Office, House Majority Party Office, or House Minority Party Office; or any person, hired on a contractual basis, having the power normally conferred upon such persons, by whatever title.
- (V) The Chancellor and Vice Chancellors of the State University System; the general counsel to the Board of Governors of the State University System; and the president, provost, vice presidents, and deans of each state university.
- (VI) Any person, including an other-personal-services employee, having the power normally conferred upon the positions referenced in this sub-subparagraph.
- b. "Appointed state officer" means any member of an appointive board, commission, committee, council, or authority of the executive or legislative branch of state government whose powers, jurisdiction, and authority are not solely advisory and

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include the final determination or adjudication of any personal or property rights, duties, or obligations, other than those relative to its internal operations.

- c. "State agency" means an entity of the legislative, executive, or judicial branch of state government over which the Legislature exercises plenary budgetary and statutory control.
- d. "Agency director" means a secretary, as that term is defined in s. 20.03, the chief administrative employee or officer of a department headed by the Governor and the Cabinet, or the chief administrative employee or officer of any body established or granted legislative or executive authority by the State Constitution, including, but not limited to, the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of the State University System, the State Board of Administration, and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, but excluding the Legislature, the judiciary, or any constituent component of either. "Agency director" also includes any person, including an other-personal-services employee, having the power normally conferred upon such secretary, employee, or officer.
- 3.a. No member of the Legislature, appointed state officer, or statewide elected officer shall personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the government body or agency of which the individual was an officer or member for a period of 2 years following vacation of office. No member of the Legislature shall personally represent another person or

entity for compensation during his or her term of office before any state agency other than judicial tribunals or in settlement negotiations after the filing of a lawsuit.

- b. For a period of 2 years following vacation of office, a former member of the Legislature may not act as a lobbyist for compensation before an executive branch agency, agency official, or employee. The terms used in this sub-subparagraph have the same meanings as provided in s. 112.3215.
- 4.a. An agency director who is so employed on or after January 8, 2019, may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before any state agency other than the Legislature or judicial tribunals or in settlement negotiations after the filing of a lawsuit for a period of 2 years following vacation of position, except when employed by and representing another state agency.
- <u>b.</u> An agency employee, including an agency employee who was employed on July 1, 2001, in a Career Service System position that was transferred to the Selected Exempt Service System under chapter 2001-43, Laws of Florida, may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the agency with which he or she was employed for a period of 2 years following vacation of position, <u>except when unless</u> employed by <u>and representing</u> another <u>state</u> agency of state government.
 - 5. Any person violating this paragraph is shall be subject

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to the penalties provided in s. 112.317 and a civil penalty of an amount equal to the compensation which the person receives for the prohibited conduct.

6. This paragraph is not applicable to:

- a. A person employed by the Legislature or other agency prior to July 1, 1989;
- b. A person who was employed by the Legislature or other agency on July 1, 1989, whether or not the person was a defined employee on July 1, 1989;
- c. A person who was a defined employee of the State
 University System or the Public Service Commission who held such
 employment on December 31, 1994;
- d. A person who has reached normal retirement age as defined in s. 121.021(29), and who has retired under the provisions of chapter 121 by July 1, 1991; or
- e. Any appointed state officer whose term of office began before January 1, 1995, unless reappointed to that office on or after January 1, 1995.
- (b) In addition to the provisions of this part which are applicable to legislators and legislative employees by virtue of their being public officers or employees, the conduct of members of the Legislature and legislative employees shall be governed by the ethical standards provided in the respective rules of the Senate or House of Representatives which are not in conflict herewith.

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(15) (a) ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION.—An No elected public officer may not shall be held in violation of subsection (7) if the officer maintains an employment relationship with an entity which is currently a tax—exempt organization under s. 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and which contracts with or otherwise enters into a business relationship with the officer's agency and:

- $\underline{1.(a)}$ The officer's employment is not directly or indirectly compensated as a result of such contract or business relationship;
- 2.(b) The officer has in no way participated in the agency's decision to contract or to enter into the business relationship with his or her employer, whether by participating in discussion at the meeting, by communicating with officers or employees of the agency, or otherwise; and
- 3.(c) The officer abstains from voting on any matter which may come before the agency involving the officer's employer, publicly states to the assembly the nature of the officer's interest in the matter from which he or she is abstaining, and files a written memorandum as provided in s. 112.3143.
- (b) This subsection does not apply to an officer who begins his or her term of office on or after January 8, 2019.
- Section 4. Section 112.3181, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 112.3181 Additional standards for statewide elected

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officers and legislators.-

- (1) A statewide elected officer or member of the

 Legislature may not solicit an employment offer or investment
 advice arising out of official or political activities engaged
 in while he or she is an officer or legislator or a candidate
 for such office, except in the following circumstances:
- employment, including professional partnerships, in the last 180 days of his or her term of office if he or she is ineligible to run for reelection or has publicly announced, and filed a letter or other written notice with the qualifying officer with whom reelection qualification papers are filed, that he or she is not and does not intend to become a candidate for reelection.
- (b) The officer or legislator may solicit or accept employment from any prospective employer in a profession or occupation in which he or she has formerly engaged, has been formally educated or trained, or is licensed unless such employment is prohibited by other general law.
- (2) A statewide elected officer or member of the Legislature may not solicit or accept investment advice from or solicit or enter into an investment, joint venture, or other profitmaking relationship with a lobbyist or principal, as those terms are defined in s. 11.045 or s. 112.3215. However, the officer or legislator may buy or sell listed, publicly traded securities of a principal without the advice of a lobbyist or

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principal unless such action violates s. 112.313. For purposes of this section, the phrase "investment, joint venture, or other profitmaking relationship" does not include an employment relationship or any enterprise organized to employ or engage the personal services of individuals including the officer or legislator. For purposes of this section, the terms "investment advice" and "profitmaking relationship" do not include a client relationship with a licensed investment broker, licensed investment advisor, or similarly licensed professional to whom the officer or legislator pays ordinary and reasonable fees for services, regardless of such broker's, advisor's, or professional's status as a lobbyist's principal or a nonlobbyist employee of such principal.

- (3) A lobbyist or principal who receives a solicitation prohibited by this section by or on behalf of a statewide elected officer or member of the Legislature must disclose such solicitation to the commission. Any other person who receives such solicitation may disclose such solicitation to the commission. The commission may investigate any disclosure under this subsection as if it were a valid complaint under this part.
- (4) (a) A statewide elected officer or member of the

 Legislature must file a written disclosure with the commission

 upon acceptance of the following:
- 1. Any new employment with or increased compensation from an entity that receives state funds directly by appropriation;

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351	2. Any new employment with or increased compensation from
352	an agency;
353	3. Any new employment the offer of which arose out of
354	official or political activities engaged in while he or she was
355	a statewide elected officer, member of the Legislature, or
356	candidate for such office; or
357	4. Any new employment with or increased compensation from
358	a lobbyist, principal of a lobbyist, or lobbying firm.
359	(b) The disclosure must identify the applicable
360	subparagraph of paragraph (a), employer, position, salary or
361	other compensation, and effective date of employment or
362	increased compensation. Such disclosure must be filed within 30
363	days after he or she accepts the employment or increased
364	compensation or before the effective date of employment or
365	increased compensation, whichever date is earliest. With respect
366	to employment or increased compensation accepted or effective
367	between December 31, 2017, and July 1, 2018, the officer or
368	legislator must file such disclosure within 30 days after July
369	1, 2018. The commission shall publish such disclosures with the
370	officer's or legislator's full financial disclosure on its
371	website. The commission may adopt forms for disclosure and may
372	adopt rules requiring electronic submission of the disclosure
373	required by this subsection.
374	Section 5. Subsections (7) and (8) of section 112.3185,
375	Florida Statutes are renumbered as subsections (8) and (9)

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respectively, present subsections (1) and (8) are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

112.3185 Additional standards for state <u>officers and</u> agency employees.—

(1) For the purposes of this section:

- (a) "Contractual services" shall be defined as set forth in chapter 287.
- (b) "Agency" means any state officer, department, board, commission, or council of the executive, legislative or judicial branch of state government and includes the Public Service Commission.
- (c) "Covered officer" means a state officer who is serving in a position that is not an elective position. The term does not include a person who is appointed to fill an unexpired term of an elective office.
- (d) "Negotiate" or "negotiation" means a response to an offer or solicitation of offers of an employment or contractual relationship, including the submission of a resume, an application, or any other information demonstrating interest on the part of a prospective employee and interviewing or engaging in other communication intended to lead to an offer or acceptance of an employment or contractual relationship.
- (e) "Reporting employee" means any agency employee who is a reporting individual or procurement employee, as those terms are defined in s. 112.3148.

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(f) "Restricted employer," with respect to any state
officer or agency employee, means any entity that does busines
with or is subject to regulation by an agency employing the
covered officer or reporting employee and any person or entity
from whom the covered officer or reporting employee may not
solicit a gift under s. 112.3148(3).

- (g) "Subject to regulation by an agency" means subject to regulation by agency action as defined in s. 120.52(2) or its substantial equivalent. The term does not include regulatory power exercised strictly through the enactment of general laws.
- (7) A covered officer or reporting employee who is employed in such position on or after January 8, 2019, may not solicit an employment or contractual relationship from or negotiate an employment or contractual relationship with a restricted employer except as provided in this subsection.
- (a) A covered officer or reporting employee may solicit a future employment or contractual relationship from or negotiate a future employment or contractual relationship with a restricted employer within 90 days before the expiration of the officer's term of office, if the officer does not seek reappointment, or within 90 days before the officer's or employee's termination or retirement date, if he or she provides notice of termination or retirement to the head of his or her agency, the general counsel or inspector general of his or her agency, or any other officer or attorney designated by the head

of his or her agency.

- (b) If a covered officer or reporting employee has been notified by his or her appointing authority or employing agency that he or she will be discharged from office or dismissed or terminated from employment, he or she may solicit a future employment or contractual relationship from or negotiate a future employment or contractual relationship with a restricted employer at any time after such notice but not sooner than 180 days before his or her employment is scheduled to end.
- (c) A covered officer or reporting employee must disclose to the head of his or her agency, the general counsel or inspector general of his or her agency, or any other officer or attorney designated by the head of his or her agency any offer from a restricted employer of an employment or contractual relationship. After such disclosure, a covered officer or reporting employee may negotiate an employment or contractual relationship with the restricted employer if expressly authorized by the head of his or her agency or the agency head's authorized designee. Permission may be withheld only if the agency head or his or her authorized designee determines such negotiation poses an actual or potential conflict with the interests of the state or the agency.
- (d) This subsection does not authorize any employment or contractual relationship solicitation otherwise prohibited by general law.

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(9) (8) Subsections (1) through (6) of this section do not apply is not applicable to any employee of the Public Service Commission who was so employed on or before December 31, 1994, unless so employed on or after January 8, 2019.

Section 6. Paragraphs (a), (f), and (h) of subsection (1), subsections (3) and (4), paragraph (a) of subsection (5), and subsections (7) and (8) of section 112.3215, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (15) of that section is reenacted, to read:

112.3215 Lobbying before the executive branch or the Constitution Revision Commission; registration and reporting; investigation by commission.—

(1) For the purposes of this section:

- (a) "Agency" means the Governor; the, Governor and Cabinet; or any department, division, bureau, board, commission, or authority of the executive branch; the State

 Board of Education; or the Board of Governors of the State

 University System. In addition, "agency" means shall mean the Constitution Revision Commission as provided by s. 2, Art. XI of the State Constitution.
- (f) "Lobbying" "Lobbies" means seeking, on behalf of another person, to influence an agency with respect to a decision of the agency in the area of policy or procurement or an attempt to obtain the goodwill of an agency official or employee. "Lobbying" "Lobbies" also means influencing or

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attempting to influence, on behalf of another, the Constitution Revision Commission's action or nonaction through oral or written communication or an attempt to obtain the goodwill of a member or employee of the Constitution Revision Commission.

- (h) "Lobbyist" means a person who is employed and receives payment, or who contracts for economic consideration, for the purpose of lobbying, or a person who is principally employed for governmental affairs by another person or governmental entity to lobby on behalf of that other person or governmental entity. The term "principally employed for governmental affairs" means that one of the principal or most significant responsibilities of the employee to the employer is overseeing the employer's various relationships with government or representing the employer in its contacts with government. "Lobbyist" does not include a person who is:
- 1. An attorney, or any person, who represents a client in a judicial proceeding or in a formal administrative proceeding conducted pursuant to chapter 120 or any other formal hearing before an agency, board, commission, or authority of this state.
- 2. An <u>officer or</u> employee of an agency, or of a legislative or judicial branch entity, or a political <u>subdivision of this state</u> acting in the normal course of his or her <u>office or</u> duties.
- 3. A confidential informant who is providing, or wishes to provide, confidential information to be used for law enforcement

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- 4. A person who $\underline{\text{seeks}}$ lobbies to procure a contract pursuant to chapter 287 which contract is less than the threshold for CATEGORY ONE as provided in s. 287.017.
- A person may not lobby an agency until such person has electronically registered as a lobbyist with the commission. Such registration shall be due upon initially being retained to lobby and is renewable on a calendar year basis thereafter. The commission shall request authorization from the principal with the principal's name, business address, e-mail address, and telephone number to confirm that the registrant is authorized to represent the principal. Upon registration the person shall provide a statement signed by the principal or principal's representative that the registrant is authorized to represent the principal. The principal or principal's representative shall also identify and designate its main business pursuant to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) six-digit numerical code that most accurately describes the principal's main business. Registration is not complete until the commission receives the principal's authorization and the registration fee on the statement authorizing that lobbyist pursuant to a classification system approved by the commission. The registration shall require each lobbyist to attest to disclose, under oath, the following information:
 - (a) Full legal name, e-mail address, telephone number,

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526 Name and business address;

- (b) The <u>full</u> name, e-mail address, telephone number, and business address of each principal represented;
 - (c) His or her area of interest;
- (d) The agencies before which he or she will appear; and (d)(e) The existence of any direct or indirect business association, partnership, or financial relationship with any employee of an agency with which he or she lobbies, or intends to lobby, as disclosed in the registration.
- (4) The annual lobbyist registration fee shall be set by the commission by rule, not to exceed \$20\$ \$40 for each principal represented plus, for each principal, a fee not to exceed \$5 for each agency after the first.
- (5)(a)1. Each lobbying firm shall file a compensation report with the commission for each calendar quarter during any portion of which one or more of the firm's lobbyists were registered to represent a principal. The report shall include the:
- a. Full name, <u>e-mail address</u>, business address, and telephone number of the lobbying firm;
 - b. Name of each of the firm's lobbyists; and
- c. Total compensation provided or owed to the lobbying firm from all principals for the reporting period, reported in one of the following categories: \$0; \$1 to \$49,999; \$50,000 to \$99,999; \$100,000 to \$249,999; \$250,000 to \$499,999; \$500,000 to

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551 \$999,999; \$1 million or more.

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- 2. For each principal represented by one or more of the firm's lobbyists, the lobbying firm's compensation report shall also include the:
- a. Full name, $\underline{\text{e-mail address,}}$ business address, and telephone number of the principal; and
- b. Total compensation provided or owed to the lobbying firm for the reporting period, reported in one of the following categories: \$0; \$1 to \$9,999; \$10,000 to \$19,999; \$20,000 to \$29,999; \$30,000 to \$39,999; \$40,000 to \$49,999; or \$50,000 or more. If the category "\$50,000 or more" is selected, the specific dollar amount of compensation must be reported, rounded up or down to the nearest \$1,000.
- 3. If the lobbying firm subcontracts work from another lobbying firm and not from the original principal:
- a. The lobbying firm providing the work to be subcontracted shall be treated as the reporting lobbying firm's principal for reporting purposes under this paragraph; and
- b. The reporting lobbying firm shall, for each lobbying firm identified under subparagraph 2., identify the name and address of the principal originating the lobbying work.
- 4. The senior partner, officer, or owner of the lobbying firm shall certify to the veracity and completeness of the information submitted pursuant to this paragraph.
 - (7) A lobbyist shall promptly send a written statement to

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the commission canceling the <u>designation of registration for</u> a principal <u>in his or her registration</u> upon termination of <u>such</u> the lobbyist's representation of that principal. The commission may cancel a lobbyist's designation of a principal upon the principal's notification that the lobbyist is no longer authorized to represent the principal Notwithstanding this requirement, the commission may remove the name of a lobbyist from the list of registered lobbyists if the principal notifies the office that a person is no longer authorized to represent that principal.

- (8) (a) The commission shall investigate every sworn complaint that is filed with it alleging that a person covered by this section has failed to register, has failed to submit a compensation report, has made a prohibited expenditure, or has knowingly submitted false information in any report or registration required in this section.
- (b) All proceedings, the complaint, and other records relating to the investigation are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, and any meetings held pursuant to an investigation are exempt from the provisions of s. 286.011(1) and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution either until the alleged violator requests in writing that such investigation and associated records and meetings be made public or until the commission determines, based on the investigation, whether

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probable cause exists to believe that a violation has occurred.

- (c) The commission shall investigate any lobbying firm, lobbyist, principal, agency, officer, or employee upon receipt of information from a sworn complaint or from a random audit of lobbying reports indicating that the individual or entity has intentionally failed to disclose any material fact or has knowingly submitted false information in any report required by this section or by rules adopted pursuant to this section a possible violation other than a late-filed report.
- (d) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a)-(c), the commission may dismiss any complaint or investigation resulting from a random audit of lobbying reports, at any stage of disposition, if it determines that the public interest is not served by proceeding further, in which case the commission shall issue a public report stating with particularity its reasons for the dismissal.
- (e)1. Records relating to an audit conducted pursuant to this section or an investigation conducted pursuant to this section or s. 112.32155 are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.
- 2. Any portion of a meeting wherein such investigation or audit is discussed is exempt from s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution.
- 3. The exemptions no longer apply if the lobbying firm requests in writing that such investigation and associated records and meetings be made public or the commission determines

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there is probable cause that the audit reflects a violation of the reporting laws.

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(15) The commission shall adopt rules to administer this section, which shall prescribe forms for registration and compensation reports, procedures for registration, and procedures that will prevent disclosure of information that is confidential as provided in this section.

Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

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