

Department of Planning and Budget

2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1883

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Nixon

3. Committee: General Laws

4. Title: Commonwealth, Secretary of; redesigns Lobbyist Disclosure Statement to clarify information

5. Summary: The bill redesigns the Lobbyist Disclosure Statement to clarify information requested and increase compliance. Among other things, the redesigned form requires a lobbyist to include a list of all House of Delegates or Senate bills for which he or she has lobbied and changes the manner in which entertainment and gift expenses are reported. The bill also provides that a lobbyist who files the statement electronically is not required to provide a paper copy. In addition, the bill provides that the Secretary of the Commonwealth (SOC) shall review the lobbyist disclosure statements for completeness and accuracy and if a statement is not properly completed, the entire filing will be rejected and returned to the lobbyist. The substitute bill changes the time the lobbyist must submit a revised statement from 10 working days to 30 days from receipt of the returned statement.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: The SOC will likely incur an increased cost as a result of the bill since it requires the office to review the lobbyist disclosure statements for accuracy. The requirement could increase staffing needs. The fiscal impact can only be determined once the SOC knows the number of disclosure statements that are inaccurate. The SOC does not see any impact from form changes to the lobbyist disclosure statement or by the requirement to review the lobbyist disclosure statements for completeness.

It should be noted that revenues are likely to be impacted with this bill. After examining records from 2003-2008 regarding the late fees received by the SOC for the late filing of lobbyist disclosure statements, the SOC has determined the total fees the agency received that feed the general fund would drop \$22,000 from what was actually received during that period of time, if this amendment was in effect during that time period.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None