

Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB507

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Smith

3. Committee: General Laws and Technology

4. Title: **Secretary of the Commonwealth; lobbyist disclosure.**

5. Summary: The bill redesigns the Lobbyist's 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 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 lobbyist must submit a revised statement within 30 days from receipt of the returned statement.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: The SOC is not affected by changing the form of the lobbyist disclosure statement or by the requirement to review the lobbyist disclosure statements for completeness. There is no additional workload presented by the bill. The SOC will be affected by the language in the bill that requires the office to review the lobbyist disclosure statements for accuracy. This would require an increase in the professional staff in the SOC. The fiscal impact can only be determined once the SOC knows the number of disclosure statements that are inaccurate. By pushing back the date on which the late filing civil penalty comes into effect, the bill will reduce the revenue that this office generates through this fee. The reduction amount could differ significantly from year-to-year based on the fluctuating number of lobbyists who disclose late and how late they submit their forms.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: SB 507 is identical to HB 524.

Date: 2/11/2010 dpb

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