

SENATE FLOOR VERSION

February 11, 2025

AS AMENDED

SENATE BILL NO. 97

By: Sacchieri of the Senate

and

Adams of the House

An Act relating to state government; defining terms; prohibiting state agencies from contracting with lobbyists or hiring legislative liaisons for certain purposes; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4263 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. For the purposes of this section:

1. "Executive lobbyist" means any individual who is employed or retained by another for financial or other compensation to perform services that include executive lobbying, other than an individual whose lobbying activities are only incidental to, and are not a significant part of, the services provided by such individual to the client, except the following individuals shall not be considered executive lobbyists:

1 a. an individual appearing before a state officer or
2 employee of an agency who receives no compensation for
3 his or her appearance other than reimbursement from
4 the state for expenses and who engages in no further
5 lobbying, and

6 b. any person exercising his or her constitutional right
7 to petition the government who receives no
8 compensation or anything of value for lobbying;

9 2. "Legislative liaison" means any state officer or employee
10 whose duties in fact include legislative lobbying, regardless of the
11 state officer or employee's title and regardless of whether
12 legislative lobbying is included within the state officer or state
13 employee's job description, other than an individual whose lobbying
14 activities are only incidental to, and are not a significant part
15 of, the services provided by such individual to the agency;

16 3. "Legislative lobbyist" means any individual who is employed
17 or retained by another for financial or other compensation to
18 perform services that include legislative lobbying, other than an
19 individual whose lobbying activities are only incidental to, and are
20 not a significant part of, the services provided by such individual
21 to the client, except the following individuals shall not be
22 considered legislative lobbyists:

23 a. an individual appearing before the Governor or a
24 meeting of a legislative body who receives no

1 compensation for his or her appearance other than
2 reimbursement from the state for expenses and who
3 engages in no further lobbying, and

4 b. any person exercising his or her constitutional right
5 to petition the government and who receives no
6 compensation or anything of value for lobbying;

7 4. "Lobbyist" means a lobbyist principal, an executive
8 lobbyist, or a legislative lobbyist;

9 5. "Lobbyist principal" means any person or entity, including
10 an agency, who employs or retains another person for financial or
11 other compensation to conduct executive or legislative lobbying
12 activities on behalf of the lobbyist principal; provided, however,
13 it shall not mean any individual members, partners, officers, or
14 shareholders of an agency, corporation, association, firm, joint
15 venture, joint stock company, syndicate, business trust, estate,
16 trust, company, partnership, limited partnership, organization,
17 committee, club, or a group of persons who are voluntarily acting in
18 concert; and

19 6. "State agency" means a state agency as defined pursuant to
20 Section 327 of Title 61 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

21 B. No state agency shall:

22 1. Enter into any new, or renew any existing, contract or any
23 other agreement with a lobbyist for the purpose of lobbying; or

24 2. Hire a legislative liaison for the purpose of lobbying,

1 unless the agency first secures express, written approval from the
2 appropriate cabinet secretary who oversees the state agency. **If, at**
3 **the time such approval is sought, the cabinet secretary position is**
4 **vacant, the agency shall instead secure approval in the same manner**
5 **from the Governor's office.**

6 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

7 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RETIREMENT AND GOVERNMENT
8 RESOURCES
9 February 11, 2025 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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