



PRESS RELEASE

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House Passes Lobbying Transparency and Accountability Bill

HB 2577 requires improved reporting of lobbying activities

This morning, the Oregon House of Representatives voted to dramatically improve transparency and accountability of lobbying practices.

[House Bill 2577](#) will require that lobbyists influencing state legislation publicly disclose:

- Each bill they are lobbying on and whether they are working in favor, in opposition, or have requested amendments
- Each legislative topic they lobbied on that wasn't a bill

The bill will also make it easier for the public to search online for information about who's paying for lobbying activities and their position on bills. This will be made available on the Oregon Government Ethics Commission's website.

"The public deserves true transparency on what influences decisions in Salem, including high priced lobbyists," says **Rep. Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis)**. "We have transparency in campaign finance but once you get to the Capitol, there's too little information about who's attempting to influence public policy."

Oregon pioneered the field of campaign finance transparency through the ORESTAR system, which requires ongoing disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures in an easily searchable online database. House Bill 2577 will bring a similar measure of transparency to lobbying practices.

"We owe it to the public to shine a light on what role special interests play in the legislative process," says **Rep. Mark Meek (D-Oregon City)**. "We must address any concerns of undue influence by those who are more economically advantaged and have virtually unfettered access to Oregon's public policy processes. We need to level the playing field for everyday Oregonians who can't afford high-priced lobbyists. They deserve to know who's being paid to influence public policy that impacts their lives. HB 2577 will move us closer to that goal."

Under HB 2577, the new reporting requirements would go into effect April 1, 2018.

HB 2577 passed 52-3 and will go to the Senate.

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