

**Senate Study Bill 1229 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
STATE GOVERNMENT BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON SMITH)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act prohibiting governmental entities from using public  
2 funds for lobbying activities and providing a penalty.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 68B.8, Code 2019, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **68B.8 Lobbying activities by ~~state agencies~~ governmental**  
4 **entities.**

5 1. A ~~state agency of the executive branch of state~~  
6 ~~government~~ governmental entity shall not employ a person  
7 through the use of its public funds whose position with the  
8 ~~agency~~ governmental entity is primarily representing the ~~agency~~  
9 governmental entity relative to the passage, defeat, approval,  
10 or modification of legislation that is being considered by the  
11 general assembly.

12 2. A ~~state agency of the executive branch of state~~  
13 ~~government~~ governmental entity shall not use or permit the use  
14 of its public funds for a paid advertisement or public service  
15 announcement thirty days prior to or during a legislative  
16 session for the purpose of encouraging the passage, defeat,  
17 approval, or modification of a bill that is being considered,  
18 or was considered during the previous legislative session, by  
19 the general assembly.

20 3. For purposes of this section, "governmental entity" means  
21 an agency, the judicial branch, a county, a city, or any other  
22 unit of local government.

23 EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 This bill prohibits governmental entities from using public  
27 funds for lobbying activities.

28 Current law prohibits a state agency of the executive  
29 branch from employing persons through the use of public funds  
30 whose position with the agency is primarily representing the  
31 agency relative to the passage or defeat of legislation that  
32 is being considered by the general assembly. Current law also  
33 prohibits a state agency of the executive branch from using  
34 public funds 30 days prior to or during a legislative session  
35 to advertise for or against legislation. The bill extends

1 these prohibitions to agencies, the judicial branch, counties,  
2 cities, and any other unit of local government. An agency is  
3 a department, division, board, commission, bureau, authority,  
4 or office of the executive or legislative branch of state  
5 government, the office of attorney general, the state board of  
6 regents, community colleges, and the office of the governor,  
7 including a regulatory agency, or any department, division,  
8 board, commission, bureau, or office of a political subdivision  
9 of the state, but does not include any agricultural commodity  
10 promotional board, which is subject to a producer referendum.

11 A person who knowingly and intentionally violates the bill  
12 is guilty of a serious misdemeanor and may be reprimanded,  
13 suspended, or dismissed from the person's position or otherwise  
14 sanctioned. A serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement  
15 for no more than one year and a fine of at least \$315 but not  
16 more than \$1,875.