

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1827, June 22, 1957]

AN ACT TO REGULATE LOBBYING IN THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND IN THE COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Legislative purpose.*—The purpose of this Act is to prohibit corrupt or undesirable methods of lobbying, to promote a high standard of ethics in the practice of lobbying, to prevent harassing unfair and unethical lobbying practices, and to provide for the censing of lobbyists and the suspension or revocation of such licenses.

SEC. 2. *Corrupt means to influence legislation; disclosure of interest.*—Any person who shall, directly offer to give any money or property or valuable thing or any security therefor to person, for the service of such person or of any person in procuring the passage or defeat of any measure before the Congress of the Philippines or before either House or any committee thereof, upon the contingency or condition of the passage or defeat of any measure, or who shall receive, directly or indirectly, agree to receive any such money, property, thing of value or security therefor for such service, upon any such contingency or condition, or who, having a pecuniary or other interest, or acting as the agent or attorney of any person in procuring or attempting to procure the passage or defeat of any measure before the Congress of the Philippines or before either House or any committee thereof, shall attempt in any manner to influence any member of said Congress for or against such measure, without first making known to such member the real and true interest he has in such measure, either personally or as such agent or attorney, shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than two years or by fine not exceeding five thousand pesos or both such imprisonment and fine.

SEC. 3. *Corrupt or secret means to influence confirmation of appointment.*—Any person who shall, directly or indirectly, give or agree or offer to give any money or property or valuable thing or any security therefor to any person, for the service of such person or of any other person in procuring the confirmation or region or by-passing of any appointment before the Commission on Appointments or before any committee thereof, upon the contingency or condition of the confirmation or rejection or by-passing of such appointment, or who shall receive, directly or indirectly, or agree to receive any such money, property, thing of value or security therefor for such service, upon any such contingency or condition, or who, having an appointment in his favor pending before the Commission on Appointment or before any committee thereof, shall through secret or clandestine methods attempt in any manner to influence any member of such Commission to vote for confirmation of such appointment, shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than two or by a fine not exceeding five thousand pesos or both such imprisonment and fine.

SEC. 4. *Definitions.*—The following words and phrases shall have the meaning respectively ascribed to them:

1. *Measure.*—Any proposed legislation either in the form of bill, resolution or otherwise or any amendment thereof.
2. *Lobbying.*—The practice of promoting or opposing the introduction or passage of legislation before either House of the Congress of the Philippines or any of its committees, or promoting or opposing the confirmation of any pending appointment before the Commission on Appointments or any of its committees.
3. *Lobbyist.*—Any person who engages in the practice of lobbying for hire except in the manner authorized by section twelve of this Act. Lobbying for hire shall include activities of any officers, agents, attorneys or employees of any principal who are paid a regular salary or retainer by such principal and whose duties include lobbying.
4. *Unprofessional conduct.*—A violation of any of the provisions of this Act, or soliciting employment from any principal, or instigating the introduction of legislation for the purpose of obtaining employment in opposition thereto, or attempt to influence the vote of members of Congress on any measure pending or to be proposed or on any appointment submitted for confirmation by the promise of support or opposition at any future election, or by any other means than a full and fair argument on the merits thereof, or by making public any unsubstantiated charges of improper conduct on the part of any other lobbyist or of any member of Congress, or engaging in practices which reflect discredit on the practice of lobbying or the Congress.
5. *Principal.*—
 - a. Any person, corporation or association which engages a lobbyist or other person in connection with any legislation, pending before the Congress or to be proposed, affecting the pecuniary interest of such person, corporation or association, or in connection with any appointment pending before the Commission on Appointment.
 - b. Any branch or subdivision or instrumentality of government, including government-owned and government-controlled corporations, which engages a lobbyist or other person in connection with any legislation pending or to be proposed affecting the statutory powers, duties or appropriation of such branch, subdivision, or instrumentality.
6. *Docket.*—The register of licensed lobbyists maintained by the Secretary of the House of Representatives and by the Secretary of the Senate (insofar as Congress is concerned) or by the Secretary of the Commission on Appointments (insofar as said Commission is concerned) pursuant to section seven of this Act.
7. *Report.*—The statement of expenses filed with the Secretary of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate (insofar as Congress is concerned) or with the Secretary of the Commission on Appointments (insofar as said Commission is concerned) by lobbyists pursuant to section nine of this Act.
8. *Pecuniary interest.*—This term includes without limitation any legislation which creates, alters or repeals any statutory charge by way of tax, license fee,

registration fee or otherwise, or which creates, alters or repeals any statutory privilege, power, restriction or obligation of any principal, or which creates, alters or repeals the powers or duties of any court or governmental agency before which the principal does business.

SEC. 5. *Licenses for lobbyists; suspension or revocation.*—

1. *Licenses; fees; eligibility.*—Any person of legal age and good moral character who is a citizen of the Philippines is qualified to be licensed as a lobbyist as herein provided. The Secretary of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate (insofar as Congress is concerned) or the Secretary of the Commission on Appointments (insofar as said Commission is concerned) shall provide for the form of application for license. Such application may be obtained in the office of the Secretary of either House of Congress or the Secretary of the Commission on Appointment as the case may be, and filed therein. No application shall be approved except by unanimous vote of the Secretaries of both Houses insofar as lobbying in Congress is concerned. Upon approval of such application and payment of the license fee of seventy-five pesos to the Secretary of either House or to the Secretary of the Commission on Appointments, as the case may be, a license shall be issued which shall entitle the licensee to practice lobbying on behalf of any one or more principals. Each license shall expire on December thirty-first of the year in which it was issued. No application shall be disapproved without affording the applicant a hearing which shall be held and decision entered within ten days of the date of filing of the application. Denial of a license may be reviewed by mandamus proceeding in the proper court.
2. *Suspension or revocation of license.*—Upon verified complaint in writing charging the holder of a license with having been guilty of unprofessional conduct or with having procured his license by fraud or deceit or through error, the Solicitor General is hereby authorized to bring civil action in the proper Court of First Instance against the holder and in the name of the state as plaintiff to revoke the license. The procedure in such civil action shall be as provided in the Rules of Court. If the court finds for the plaintiff judgment shall be rendered revoking the license and the clerk of the court shall file a certified copy of the judgment with the Secretary of both Houses or with the Secretary of the Commission on Appointments, as the case may be. If the court shall determine that the complaint made to the Solicitor General was without proper cause, it shall enter judgment against the person making the complaint for the costs of the action with such damages as the court may award. The Rising authority may commence such action on their own motion.
3. *Suspension of lobbying privileges.*—No lobbyist whose license has been suspended or revoked and no person who has been convicted of a violation of any provision of this Act shall engage in any activity permitted by section twelve hereof until he has been reinstated to the practice of lobbying and duly licensed.

SEC. 6. *Lobby registry.*—Except as provided in section twelve (2) hereof every principal who employs any lobbyist shall within one week after such employment cause the name of said lobbyist to be entered upon the docket. It shall also be the duty of the lobbyist to enter his name upon the docket. Upon the termination of such employment such fact may be entered opposite the name of the lobbyist either by the lobbyist or the principal.