

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: 2020-705

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Dennis

Date of Introduction: November 24, 2020

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: November 25, 2020

Type of Action: Amendment to Ethics Code

Bill Summary: This bill amends Part 8 (Lobbying), Chapter 602 (Jacksonville Ethics Code), *Ordinance Code*, to apply to political consultants as well as lobbyists. Any person or entity providing political consulting services, must first register annually with the Council Secretary and comply with the reporting requirements specified in Section 602.808, *Ordinance Code*.

Background Information: The purpose of this legislation is to improve transparency by requiring political consultants advising City elected officials and candidates for City elected office to meet certain registration and reporting requirements. A Political Consultant is defined to be any person or entity that receives or is promised economic consideration equaling \$1,000 or more in a calendar year for services. If a client is acquired or terminated by a political consultant subsequent to initial registration or reregistration, the political consultant will submit an amendment to the registration to the Council Secretary no later than 15 days afterwards. The Ethics Commission will provide assistance and coordination of the training and education of local officeholders, candidates and political consultants as to the City's political consulting laws. Failure to register or noncompliance in reporting will be penalized as a class D offense against the City.

Policy Impact Area: Ethics Code- Political Consultants

Fiscal Impact: No direct cost to the City

Analyst: Hampsey