

SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 2008

H. B. NO. 16- 96

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To prohibit the use of government or public funds to hire lobbyist without specific authorization by law.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:


- 1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the past practice of hiring
2 lobbyist and other firms has become the rule rather than the exception and that during this
3 time of financial shortfalls, funding intended for lobbyist is better used elsewhere within
4 the Commonwealth.
- 5 **Section 2. Enactment.** No Government or public funds of any nature shall be expended
6 in support of any lobbyist, unless specifically authorized by law. This Section shall apply
7 to all line agencies, all autonomous agencies, and public corporations. No government
8 officer or employee may accept the services of a lobbyist on a volunteer basis.
- 9 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
10 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
11 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
12 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.
- 13 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
14 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under
15 statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes.
16 Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or
17 pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating,

1 or in any way modifying, any liability civil or criminal, which shall already be in
2 existence at the date this Act becomes effective.

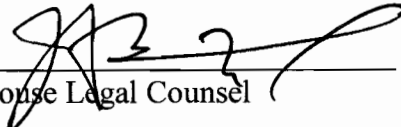
3 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon approval by the Governor or
4 upon becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 5/14/08

Introduced By: _____


Rep. Joseph N. Camacho

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel