

TASMANIA

POLITICAL LOBBYING (INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY) BILL 2026

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SCHEDULE 1 – CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

POLITICAL LOBBYING (INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY) BILL 2026

(Brought in by the Honourable Megan Therese Webb)

A BILL FOR

**An Act to regulate the lobbying of public officials and for
related purposes**

Be it enacted by Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by
and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and
House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows:

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Political Lobbying
(Integrity and Transparency) Act 2026*.

2. Commencement

This Act commences on a day to be proclaimed,
but if this Act has not commenced before 12
months after the day on which it receives the
Royal Assent, it commences at the end of that
12-month period.

3. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the contrary intention
appears –

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approved means approved by the CEO of the Integrity Commission;

business includes an individual, association, entity or organisation;

candidate has the same meaning as in the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023*;

CEO of the Integrity Commission means the chief executive officer of the Integrity Commission appointed under section 17 of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009*;

client, in respect of a third-party lobbyist, means the person or business on behalf of whom the third-party lobbyist undertakes lobbying activities for a fee or other benefit;

contact disclosure log – see section 20;

employer, in respect of an in-house lobbyist, means the person or business who employs the in-house lobbyist;

in-house lobbyist – see section 5;

party has the same meaning as in the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023*;

political lobbyist means –

- (a) an in-house lobbyist; or
- (b) a third-party lobbyist;

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public official means the following people:

- (a) a Minister;
- (b) a Parliamentary Secretary;
- (c) a Secretary to Cabinet appointed under section 8F of the *Constitution Act 1934*;
- (d) a member of Parliament in the House of Assembly;
- (e) a member of Parliament in the Legislative Council;
- (f) a person employed in the office of a person specified in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e);
- (g) a person holding an office specified in column 2 of Division 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the *State Service Act 2000*;

registered political lobbyist means a political lobbyist registered on the register of political lobbyists;

register of political lobbyists means the register kept in accordance with section 7;

reportable political donation has the same meaning as in the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023*;

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third-party lobbyist means a person, employed or engaged by a business, who receives a fee or other benefit from the business, to undertake lobbying activities on behalf of a client of the business;

Tribunal means the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

4. Meaning of *lobbying activity*

(1) In this Act, ***lobbying activity*** means communicating with a public official in an effort to influence, or for the purpose of influencing, decision-making in respect of any of the following:

- (a) the making of legislation;
- (b) the development or amendment of a government policy or program;
- (c) the awarding of a government contract or grant;
- (d) the allocation of government funding.

(2) Despite subsection (1), the following activities are not lobbying activities:

- (a) communications made for the sole purpose of making an appointment to meet with a public official;
- (b) activities that are public, including but not limited to –

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- (i) making submissions in response to public consultation processes; or
- (ii) making presentations at public hearings or to committees; or
- (iii) signing petitions;
- (c) communications in response to a request for tender.

5. Meaning of *in-house lobbyist*

- (1) In this section –

not-for-profit organisation means an organisation, association, society, club, institution or other body, whether corporate or unincorporate, that is formed or carried on primarily for charitable purposes and not for purposes of trading or securing a profit for its members or another body;

public authority has the same meaning as in section 5 of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009*;

union means an organisation of employees that is a registered organisation.

- (2) In this Act, subject to subsection (3), an ***in-house lobbyist*** is a person who is directly employed by an employer to undertake lobbying activities as a significant part of the person's duties as an employee.

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(3) Despite subsection (2), a person who is directly employed by one or more of the following bodies:

- (a) a not-for-profit organisation;
- (b) a public authority;
- (c) a union –

is not taken to be an in-house lobbyist in respect of lobbying activities undertaken by that person on behalf of that body.

6. Application of Act

The provisions of this Act –

- (a) are in addition to, and do not derogate from, any other standards or codes of conduct that are applicable to a public official; and
- (b) do not create an obligation for a public official to have contact with a particular political lobbyist or political lobbyists in general; and
- (c) if a law requires a public official to consider a submission or view put forward by a person who may be a political lobbyist, do not prevent contact between that public official and that person for the purposes of satisfying that requirement.

PART 2 – REGISTER OF POLITICAL LOBBYISTS

7. Register of political lobbyists

- (1) The CEO of the Integrity Commission is to keep a register of political lobbyists.
- (2) The register of political lobbyists is to include the following particulars in respect of a political lobbyist:
 - (a) the full name, address, telephone number and email address of the political lobbyist;
 - (b) whether the political lobbyist is proposing to act as an in-house lobbyist or a third-party lobbyist;
 - (c) if the political lobbyist is proposing to act as an in-house lobbyist, the business registration details of the employer by whom the political lobbyist is employed to undertake lobbying activities, including the names of all owners, partners and major shareholders of the employer as applicable;
 - (d) if the political lobbyist is proposing to act as a third-party lobbyist –
 - (i) the business registration details of the business by whom the third-party lobbyist is employed to undertake lobbying activities, including the names of all

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owners, partners and major shareholders of the business as applicable; and

- (ii) the name of each client on behalf of whom the third-party lobbyist intends to undertake lobbying activities;
- (e) whether, at the time of registration, the political lobbyist has been employed as a public official during the previous 2-year period and the specific role or roles in which the political lobbyist was employed;
- (f) whether the political lobbyist, or the employer by whom the political lobbyist is employed, has received a fee or benefit to advise a candidate or party during the previous 12 month period.

8. Application for registration of political lobbyist

- (1) A person who is proposing to undertake lobbying activities may apply to the CEO of the Integrity Commission to be registered on the register of political lobbyists.
- (2) An application made under subsection (1) is to –
 - (a) be in the approved form; and
 - (b) include the particulars of the applicant, as applicable, specified in section 7(2); and

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- (c) include a statutory declaration by the applicant to the effect that the applicant –
- (i) has never been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 2 years or more, in this or any other jurisdiction; and
 - (ii) has not been convicted, as an adult, during the previous 10-year period of –
 - (A) an offence involving dishonesty; or
 - (B) a crime.
- (3) If the CEO of the Integrity Commission receives an application that satisfies the requirements of subsection (2), the CEO is to register the applicant on the register of political lobbyists by entering the particulars of that applicant onto the register of political lobbyists.
- (4) If any of the particulars, specified in section 7(2), of a registered political lobbyist change, the registered lobbyist is to notify the CEO of the Integrity Commission, in the approved form, as soon as practicable, but in any case within 10 working days after the change in particulars occurs.
- (5) If the CEO of the Integrity Commission receives a notification from a registered political lobbyist under subsection (4), the CEO is to update the entry in the register of political lobbyists in

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respect of the registered political lobbyist accordingly.

- (6) A person who makes an application under subsection (1), or a notification under subsection (4), must ensure that the information included in the application or notification is not false or misleading in a material particular.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or both.

9. De-registration of registered political lobbyist

- (1) The CEO of the Integrity Commission is to remove the registration in respect of a registered political lobbyist from the register of political lobbyists if requested by that registered political lobbyist.
- (2) The CEO of the Integrity Commission may remove the registration in respect of a registered political lobbyist from the register of political lobbyists if –
- (a) in the opinion of the CEO, the registered political lobbyist has –
 - (i) failed to comply with one or more of the standards set out in section 14 that apply to the registered political lobbyist; or

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- (ii) failed to inform the public official of the matters required by section 15; or
- (iii) undertaken lobbying activities in contravention of section 17; or
- (iv) given a gift in contravention of section 21; or
- (b) the particulars contained in the register in respect of the registered political lobbyist are inaccurate or misleading to a significant degree; or
- (c) the registered political lobbyist has failed to notify of a change in the particulars of the registered political lobbyist in accordance with section 8(4) within the timeframe specified in that provision; or
- (d) the registered political lobbyist has failed to provide information requested under subsection (3) within 10 working days after the making of the request.

(3) The CEO of the Integrity Commission may request further information from a registered political lobbyist in respect of the following matters –

- (a) the particulars of the registered political lobbyist included in the register of political lobbyists;
- (b) lobbying activities undertaken by the registered political lobbyist;

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- (c) allegations of non-compliance with one or more of the standards set out in section 14;
 - (d) any other matter relevant, in the opinion of the CEO, to the inclusion of the registered political lobbyist on the register of political lobbyists.
- (4) Before removing registration in respect of a registered political lobbyist from the register of political lobbyists, the CEO of the Integrity Commission must –
 - (a) advise the registered political lobbyist –
 - (i) of the reasons why the removal of the registration is proposed; and
 - (ii) that the registered political lobbyist may, within 10 working days after the receipt of the advice, make a submission to the CEO of the Integrity Commission as to why the registration should not be removed; and
 - (b) consider any submission made in accordance with paragraph (a)(ii).
- (5) The CEO of the Integrity Commission must determine whether or not to remove registration in respect of a registered political lobbyist from the register of political lobbyists, and notify the registered political lobbyist of the determination –

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- (a) if a submission is made in accordance with subsection (4)(a)(ii), within 30 days after the receipt of that submission; or
 - (b) if no submission is received within the period specified in subsection (4)(a)(ii), within 30 working days after the issue of the advice under subsection (4)(a).
 - (6) The removal of registration in respect of a registered political lobbyist from the register of political lobbyists takes effect on the day on which notification of a determination to remove registration is given to the political lobbyist.

10. Review by Tribunal in respect of determination

- (1) On application from a political lobbyist who is aggrieved by a determination made by the CEO of the Integrity Commission under section 9 to remove registration in respect of the political lobbyist, the Tribunal has the jurisdiction to review that determination.
- (2) An application made under subsection (1) must be made within 10 working days after the day on which notice of the determination was given under section 9(5).
- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, the review, by the Tribunal, of a determination specified in subsection (1) is –
 - (a) within the review jurisdiction of the Tribunal; and

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- (b) allocated to the Administrative stream of the General Division of the Tribunal.

11. Reapplication for registration of political lobbyist

A person –

- (a) in respect of whom a determination is made to remove registration as a lobbyist under section 9(5), unless otherwise determined by a review of the Tribunal under section 10; or
- (b) who is convicted of an offence under section 13 or 16 –

may not apply, or reapply, for registration on the register of political lobbyists until 12 months after the day on which the registration is removed or the conviction recorded, respectively.

12. Access to register of political lobbyists

The CEO of the Integrity Commission is to ensure that a version of the register of political lobbyists, that does not include the address, telephone number or email address in respect of any registered political lobbyist, is available for public inspection on a website maintained by, or on behalf of, the Integrity Commission.

PART 3 – OBLIGATIONS OF POLITICAL LOBBYISTS

13. Political lobbyist must be registered

A political lobbyist must not undertake lobbying activities unless the political lobbyist is a registered political lobbyist.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or both.

14. Standards in respect of registered political lobbyists

- (1) All registered political lobbyists must comply with the following standards when undertaking lobbying activities:
 - (a) a registered political lobbyist must not –
 - (i) engage in any conduct that is corrupt, dishonest or illegal; or
 - (ii) unlawfully cause or threaten any detriment;
 - (b) a registered political lobbyist must use all reasonable efforts to satisfy themselves of the truth and accuracy of all statements and information provided by them to –
 - (i) an employer or client on behalf of whom the registered political lobbyist undertakes lobbying activities; and

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- (ii) public officials; and
 - (iii) the wider public;
 - (c) a registered political lobbyist must keep any personal activity or involvement on behalf of a party strictly separate from their duties and activities as a political lobbyist;
 - (d) a registered political lobbyist must act in good faith and avoid conduct that is likely to bring discredit upon themselves, their employer or client, or a public official;
 - (e) a registered political lobbyist must inform a public official, with whom the registered political lobbyist is undertaking lobbying activities, of any conflict of interest on the part of the registered political lobbyist;
 - (f) a registered political lobbyist must not cause a public official, with whom the registered political lobbyist is undertaking lobbying activities, to be subject to a conflict of interest by proposing or undertaking an action that would constitute an improper influence on the public official.
- (2) In addition to the standards specified in subsection (1), a registered political lobbyist who is a third-party lobbyist must also comply with the following standards when undertaking lobbying activities:

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- (a) a third-party lobbyist must not make misleading, exaggerated or extravagant claims about, or otherwise misrepresent, the nature or extent of the access of the third-party lobbyist to public officials, members of political parties or any other person;
- (b) a third-party lobbyist must make each client in respect of the third-party lobbyist aware of the obligations of the third-party lobbyist under this Act;
- (c) a third-party lobbyist must not disclose confidential information unless –
 - (i) they have obtained the informed consent of their client; or
 - (ii) disclosure is required by law;
- (d) a third-party lobbyist must not represent conflicting or competing interests without the informed consent of each person whose interests are involved.

15. Information must be supplied to public official

Before commencing lobbying activities with a public official, a political lobbyist must inform the public official of the following matters in respect of the political lobbyist:

- (a) that they are a political lobbyist;
- (b) whether or not they are currently a registered political lobbyist;

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- (c) in the case of an in-house lobbyist, the employer on behalf of whom they are undertaking lobbying activities;
- (d) in the case of a third-party lobbyist, the client on behalf of whom they are undertaking lobbying activities;
- (e) the nature of the matter that the political lobbyist is addressing on behalf of the political lobbyist's employer or client.

16. Success fees prohibited

- (1) In this section –

success fee means any amount of money, fee, benefit or other consideration, the receipt of which depends on the outcome of lobbying activities.

- (2) A person must not give or receive, or agree to the giving or receipt of, a success fee in relation to undertaking lobbying activities.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or both.

- (3) The CEO of the Integrity Commission must remove the registration from the register of political lobbyists in respect of a registered political lobbyist who has been convicted of an offence under subsection (2).
- (4) If a person is convicted of an offence under subsection (2), an amount equivalent to the value

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of the success fees, unless the court otherwise orders, is forfeited to the Crown.

- (5) In proceedings for an offence against this section, or on appeal, the court may order that the amount or value of the success fee not be forfeited or, if it has been forfeited, that it be returned to a specified person.
- (6) For the purposes of this section, the value of a non-monetary success fee may be determined by the court on the basis of a reasonable estimate in dollars of the value of the non-monetary success fee to the defendant.

17. Political lobbying by certain previous public officials not permitted

If a person ceases –

- (a) to hold office as –
 - (i) a Minister; or
 - (ii) a Parliamentary Secretary; or
 - (iii) a Secretary to Cabinet appointed under section 8F of the *Constitution Act 1934*; or
- (b) to hold an office specified in column 2 of Division 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the *State Service Act 2000* –

that person must not act as a political lobbyist in relation to any matter with which the person had official dealings while the person held that

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office, for a period of 2 years after ceasing to hold that office.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or both.

Consultation draft

PART 4 – OBLIGATIONS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

18. Standards in respect of public officials

A public official must comply with the following standards when communicating with a political lobbyist:

- (a) the public official must ensure that any contact with a political lobbyist that involves lobbying activities, no matter how formal or informal, and no matter the location of the contact, is documented in the contact disclosure log kept in accordance with section 20;
- (b) the public official must ensure that information that would produce unfair advantage must not be disclosed to a political lobbyist.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or both.

19. Prohibited interactions with political lobbyists

A public official must not knowingly and intentionally be party to lobbying activity undertaken by the following persons:

- (a) a political lobbyist who is not a registered political lobbyist;

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- (b) a political lobbyist who has failed to supply to the public official any of the information required under section 15.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or both.

20. Contact disclosure log

- (1) In this section –

electronic communication has the same meaning as in the *Electronic Transactions Act 2000*;

month means the period beginning on the first day of a calendar month and ending on the last day of that calendar month.

- (2) The CEO of the Integrity Commission is to keep a record of all lobbying activities undertaken by a registered political lobbyist in respect of a public official, to be known as the ***contact disclosure log***.

- (3) A public official in respect of whom a registered political lobbyist undertakes lobbying activity must ensure that the lobbying activity is disclosed to the CEO of the Integrity Commission for the purpose of inclusion in the contact disclosure log –

- (a) in the approved form; and

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- (b) within 10 working days after the end of the month in which the lobbying activity occurred.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or both

- (4) A disclosure made under subsection (3) in respect of lobbying activity is to include the following information:
 - (a) the name and role of the public official in respect of whom the registered political lobbyist undertook the lobbying activity;
 - (b) the names and roles of any other public official who was present, subject to or the recipient of the lobbying activity;
 - (c) the name of the registered political lobbyist who undertook the lobbying activity;
 - (d) if the registered political lobbyist specified in paragraph (c) is a third-party lobbyist, the name of the client that the registered political lobbyist represents;
 - (e) the date on which the lobbying activity occurred;
 - (f) the nature of the lobbying activity, identifying each type of matter, specified in section 4(1)(a), (b), (c) or (d), in relation to which the registered political

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lobbyist is seeking to influence decision-making;

- (g) the subject matter in relation to which the registered political lobbyist is seeking to influence decision-making by means of the lobbying activity;
- (h) the form of the communication that constituted the lobbying activity.

- (5) A public official who makes a disclosure under subsection (3) must ensure that the information included in the disclosure is not false or misleading in a material particular.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or both.

- (6) If a disclosure is made under subsection (3), the CEO of the Integrity Commission is to ensure that within 10 working days after the disclosure is made, a record of the disclosure is included in the contact disclosure log.

- (7) The CEO of the Integrity Commission is to ensure that –

- (a) each record on the contact disclosure log is available for public inspection on a website maintained by, or on behalf of, the Integrity Commission; and
- (b) continues to be so available for a period of at least 6 years.

21. Certain gifts may not be accepted or given

- (1) In this section –

gift has the same meaning as in the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023*.

- (2) A public official must not accept a gift from a political lobbyist, unless that gift is a small token.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or both.

- (3) A public official must not give a gift to a political lobbyist, unless that gift is a small token.

Penalty: Fine not exceeding 200 penalty units or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or both.

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Part 5 – Miscellaneous

PART 5 – MISCELLANEOUS

22. Regulations

- (1) The Governor may make regulations for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) The regulations may be made so as to apply differently according to matters, limitations or restrictions, whether as to time, circumstance or otherwise, prescribed in the regulations.
- (3) The regulations may authorise any matter to be from time to time approved, applied or regulated by the Integrity Commission.

23. Review of Act

- (1) In this section –

independent review means a review by persons who –

- (a) are not otherwise employed by this State, a State Service Agency, a member of Parliament or a party; and
 - (b) in the Minister’s opinion, are appropriately qualified for that task;
- (2) The Minister must cause an independent review of the operation and scope of this Act to be completed within 3 years after the commencement of this Act.

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- (3) The Minister must cause the findings of a review under subsection (2) to be tabled in each House of Parliament within 10 sitting-days of that House after the completion of the review.

24. Administration of Act

Until provision is made in relation to this Act by order under section 4 of the *Administrative Arrangements Act 1990* –

- (a) the administration of this Act is assigned to the Minister for Justice; and
- (b) the department responsible to that Minister in relation to the administration of this Act is the Department of Justice.

25. Consequential amendments

The legislation specified in Schedule 1 is amended as specified in that Schedule.

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SCHEDULE 1 – CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

Section 25

Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2020

- 1.** Schedule 4 is amended by inserting after item 44 the following item:

44A. The *Political Lobbying (Integrity and Transparency) Act 2026*.