



Issue Spotlight: Ethics Reform

The Florida House is committed to ensuring government is accountable and transparent, and government officials are held to the highest ethical standards. In doing so, the House hopes to continue building public trust.

Below are brief descriptions of bills that offer opportunities to advance this mission. Please refer to bill texts and analyses for more complete and specific information on each bill.

Extended Lobby Ban – HB 5, Chairman Metz

- It's time to close the revolving door of former elected officials becoming lobbyists.
- **HB 5** extends the current statutory lobby ban from two years to six years. The bill prevents legislators and statewide elected officers from lobbying **any state** executive or legislative body, for six years after leaving office.
- The new six-year ban would be the first of its kind and the strictest in America.

Ethics Reform – HB 7007, Rep. Sullivan

- Enacts reforms to conflict of interest laws so government employees and elected officials serve the public and do not use their positions for private gain.
- Some of the reforms related to conflicts of interest in the bill include:
 - Prohibiting state and local officers or employees from soliciting a job from a business or entity that the officer or employee's agency has regulatory power over.
 - Requiring disclosure and reporting on offers of conflicting employment.
 - Requiring state legislators and statewide elected officers to disclose changes in employment and pay raises immediately when the employer has interests in the legislative process.
 - Imposing a two-year ban on former agency directors from lobbying any state agency.

Local Government Ethics Reform – HB 7003, Chairman Metz

- Ethics reforms should not stop at the state level. Local government officials, like state officials, should be held to the highest ethical standard.
- Some of the ethics reforms for local governments in the bill include:
 - Requiring certain elected local officers to file a more detailed financial disclosure.
 - Expanding annual ethics training requirements for local officers.
 - Expanding restrictions when a conflict of interest exists.
 - Requiring lobbyists to register with a statewide database before they can lobby local government bodies.
- Registration fees collected from those lobbying local governmental entities will be deposited into the Local Government Lobbyist Registration System Trust Fund.