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Subject: Fiscal Impact

Chip,

Thanks again for meeting with me and Katherine this morning. We look forward to working with you and Brett on any questions or concerns you have on ethics/FOIA legislation and hope we can re-visit our continuing conversation about ethics reform issues soon.

To follow up on a question you posed, the Ways and Means Committee added a proviso (107.1) to increase the lobbyist registration fee by \$100 (which is the Commission's recommendation # 12 and also in Sections 1 and 2 of S. 338). The Committee's revenue estimate is \$108,700 which the agency would retain.

Proviso 107.2 is essentially a "swap" for the State Ethics Commission's fees and fines money for General Fund money. This was a recommendation in the Governor's budget as well. The Commission would not lose funding as a result of this "swap".

107.1 ADD (Lobbying Fee Increase) WMC: ADD new proviso to authorize the Ethics Commission to increase the registration fees for lobbyists and lobbyists principals to \$200 and to use these funds to offset costs associated with administering and enforcing lobbyist and lobbying legislation. Authorize unexpended funds to be carried forward and used for the same purpose. Fiscal Impact: BEA states that based on 1,087 currently registered lobbyists, the proposed \$100 fee increase should generate approximately \$108,700 in other fund revenue for the agency.

107.2 ADD (Ethics Commission Fees) WMC: ADD new proviso to require any fee, fine, or penalty imposed by the commission to be deposited into the General Fund except for the \$100 increase for lobbyist and lobbyist's principal registration fee authorized in proviso 107.1.

I will send you the state-by-state information we discussed shortly.

Thanks,
Swati

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