

House Bill 314

In The House

January 20, 1981

Introduced and referred
to Committee on State
Administration.

February 2, 1981

Committee recommend bill
do not pass.

HOUSE BILL NO. 314
 INTRODUCED BY *John Underdal* *Paul Smith*
Conroy *Stahle* *Johnson* *Hayden* *Vincent* *Prater*
Edwards *Hansen* *Mundy*

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT
 2 PAYMENTS OF PUBLIC FUNDS BY A MUNICIPALITY TO A LOBBYIST
 3 ORGANIZATION BE AUTHORIZED BY A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS OF THE
 4 MUNICIPALITY."

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

6 Section 1. Short title. [This act] may be cited as the
 7 "Taxpayers' Lobbyist Disclosure Act of 1981".

8 Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of [this act] is to
 9 inform municipal taxpayers of the costs incurred by the
 10 municipality in making payments to lobbying organizations
 11 and to provide the electorate the option, exercisable at a
 12 general election, to authorize or disapprove of payments of
 13 public funds to such organizations.

14 Section 3. Definition. "Lobbying organization", as
 15 used in [this act], means a private association or
 16 organization whether incorporated or not that employs or
 17 reimburses expenses for a licensed lobbyist who primarily
 18 represents the interests of local governments, their
 19 governing bodies, or officers.

20 Section 4. Payment of public funds to lobbying
 21 organization -- vote required. (1) A municipality may not

2 pay public funds to a lobbying organization unless
 3 authorized to do so by a vote of the municipality's
 4 electorate at a general election. The ballot issue on
 5 payment authorization must state the amount the municipality
 6 proposes to pay to the lobbying organization. The payment is
 7 authorized if a majority of the electors voting on the
 8 question approve the payment.

9 (2) The authorization for payment of public funds to a
 10 lobbying organization has continuing validity unless the
 11 amount to be paid increases more than 3% in any year.

12 Section 5. Increase in fees -- vote to authorize. A
 13 municipality authorized to pay public funds to a lobbying
 14 organization under [section 4] may not increase its payment
 15 to the lobbying organization by more than 3% annually unless
 16 such an expenditure is authorized by a vote of the
 17 municipality's electorate at a general election. The ballot
 18 issue on the payment increase authorization must state the
 19 amount paid the lobbying organization the previous year, the
 20 total amount of the proposed payment authorization, and the
 21 percentage increase between the two amounts. The increased
 22 payment is authorized if a majority of the electors voting
 on the question approve the payment.

-End-

INTRODUCED BILL
 -2-
 HB 314