

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 161
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Author:	Sen. Standridge
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Bill Analysis

SB 161 requires each state agency to identify each person within its employ or contracted with the agency that is registered as a legislative liaison or a legislative or executive lobbyist. After identifying the associated costs of each liaison or lobbyist, 70% of the funding associated with employing agency liaisons and 100% of the funding associated with contracted lobbyists will be transferred from the agency to the newly created Legislative Office of Fiscal Transparency (LOFT). 30% of the funding associated with agency liaisons will be retained by the impacted agency.

The measure then directs the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) to work with all impacted agencies to determine how many FTE employees can be transferred to the Legislative Service Bureau (LSB) and how many full-time equivalent employees will be eliminated at the impacted state agencies. LOFT may retain any employees transferred to the LSB. The measure prohibits any net gain in FTE employees.

Upon the effective date of the measure, agencies will be prohibited from employing any agency liaisons or contracting with any lobbyist. Chief officers and their direct subordinates are exempted from the provisions of this measure.

SB 161 also directs LOFT to analyze agency budgets and programs, gather information related to proposed budgets of state agencies, analyze and forecast revenues available to state agencies, and conduct investigations related to the operations of state agencies. The measure authorizes the President Pro Tempore and Speaker to jointly add additional duties to LOFT. The Office will also be required to make joint reports to the President Pro Tempore, Speaker, and relevant chairs of the standing committees of both chambers.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor