

File No. \_\_\_\_\_

SOTF Item No. 3

CAC Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

**SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE**  
AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Sunshine Ordinance Task Force

Date: May 2, 2012

Compliance and Amendments Committee

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CAC/SOTF**

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Resolution to Support SB1001

**OTHER**

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Completed by: Andrea Ausberry Date April 25, 2012

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 25 pages.  
The complete document is in the file.

# SB 1001 – YEE

## LOBBYISTS: REGISTRATION FEES

### EXISTING LAW

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Existing provisions of the Political Reform Act of 1974 regulate the activities of lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers, as defined, in connection with attempts to influence legislative and administrative action by legislative and other state officials. The act requires that lobbying firms and lobbyist employers register with the Secretary of State, and authorizes the Secretary of State to charge each lobbying firm and lobbyist employer a fee of up to \$25 per year for each lobbyist required to be listed on its registration statement.

One of the uses for those funds is to finance the upkeep of the state's database that currently tracks campaign contributions and lobbying activity known as Cal-Access, which was recently shut down for well over a month as a result of a crash of the system due to outdated technology.

### BILL SUMMARY

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This bill would increase the maximum amount of this fee to \$50 per year per lobbyist with the goal of financing the maintenance of Cal-Access. The bill also would require the Fair Political Practices Commission to adjust this fee on December 1 of each even-numbered year to reflect any increase in the Consumer Price Index and to round the adjustment to the nearest \$5.

This bill would require committees required to file pursuant to 84101 to pay a \$50 per year fee as well. The lobbyist fees along with the committee fees will be collected in a new fund created by this bill, for the purposes of funding the online political disclosure database.

There are over 2,000 lobbyists (including placement agents) in California. With about 7,800 committees added into the equation, this legislation would result in more than \$440,000 per year in additional funds to operate the state's political database.

### SUPPORT

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Common Cause (sponsor)  
California Newspaper Publishers Association  
California Fair Political Practices Commission

## **Resolution in Support of SB 1001 (Yee) – Lobbyists: Registration Fees**

Whereas, open government exists in many ways, one important yet little known is regarding political disclosure and the vast database that contains that information which is also available online, and

Whereas, existing provisions of the Political Reform Act of 1974 regulate the activities of lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers, as defined, in connection with attempts to influence legislative and administrative action by legislative and other state officials. The act requires that lobbying firms and lobbyist employers register with the Secretary of State, and authorizes the Secretary of State to charge each lobbying firm and lobbyist employer a fee of up to \$25 per year for each lobbyist required to be listed on its registration statement, and

Whereas, one of the uses for those funds is to finance the upkeep of the state's database that currently tracks campaign contributions and lobbying activity known as Cal-Access, which was recently shut down for well over a month as a result of a crash of the system due to outdated technology, and

Whereas, the current state's budget may not be able to continue support of the well built database an increase in the fee would help support it, therefore

Be it resolved, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force supports continued efforts to maintain the Cal-Access database with an increase in its annual fee.

