



MEMO OF SUPPORT

[A9559 \(Rajkumar\)](#)

Requires lobbyists to report support or opposition to legislation

January 23, 2025

TITLE OF BILL

An act to amend the legislative law, in relation to requiring lobbyists to disclose their positions on bills.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Reinvent Albany strongly supports this bill because it will help the public see who is supporting and opposing legislation, making lobbying disclosures much more useful.

In 2024, corporations and special interests spent [\\$377 million](#) on lobbying in New York, surpassing the previous record by 5 percent. But the public has no way of knowing whether this money was spent in support or in opposition to legislation because the state does not require lobbyists to disclose their positions.

Opponents of such a requirement claim that it would be too difficult to enforce, as the matter of whether lobbying is in support or opposition is too complicated for reporting. But numerous states and localities across the US already have this requirement, including [Colorado, Wisconsin, and Nebraska](#). Idaho requires lobbyists to list what specific appropriations they lobbied on, another component of this bill.

Requiring lobbyist position reporting will help the public better understand how moneyed interests are trying to influence government policy – and despite the naysayers, we know from other states that it can be done. We urge the Legislature to pass the bill.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Sections 1 and 2 respectively amend Legislative Law §1-h(b) and §1-j(b) to require lobbyists to report their complete address and, when lobbying on an appropriations bill,

to indicate which items within the bill they lobbied on, and their position on the bill – whether it was “in support,” “in support with proposed amendments,” “in opposition,” or “in opposition with proposed amendments.” Lobbyists must also indicate whether advocacy for executive order was in regard to adoption, issuance, rescission, modification, or regarding the terms of orders, and for tribal compacts whether it was in regard to approval, disapproval, implementation, or administration.

Section 3 states that the bill takes effect 180 days after becoming law.