

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 459

BY REPRESENTATIVE ARNOLD

ETHICS: Allows an immediate family member of a legislator to lobby the legislature under certain circumstances

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:1123(39)(a), relative to the Code of Governmental Ethics; to
3 allow an immediate family member of a legislator to lobby the legislature under
4 certain circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 42:1123(39)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §1123. Exceptions

8 This Part shall not preclude:

9 * * *

10 (39) An immediate family member of a legislator from being a registered
11 lobbyist or from lobbying as provided in R.S. 24:50, et seq., provided each of the
12 following:

13 (a) The immediate family member was a registered lobbyist as provided in
14 R.S. 49:71 et seq., for at least one year prior to January 9, 2012, or was a registered
15 lobbyist as provided in R.S. 24:50 et seq., for at least one year prior to January 1,
16 2009, or for at least one year prior to becoming an immediate family member of the
17 legislator, or for at least one year prior to the legislator's initial election to the
18 legislature.

19 * * *

1 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
5 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Arnold

HB No. 459

Abstract: Allows the immediate family member of a legislator to lobby the legislature provided that the immediate family member was a registered executive branch lobbyist for more than one year prior to Jan. 9, 2012.

Present law (ethics code) prohibits the immediate family member of a legislator from entering into or being in any way interested in any transaction involving the legislator's agency. Present law provides an exception to allow an immediate family member of a legislator to be a registered lobbyist and to lobby the legislature as provided in present law (R.S. 24:50 et seq.), provided each of the following:

- (1) The immediate family member was a registered lobbyist as provided in present law (R.S. 24:50 et seq.), for at least one year prior Jan. 1, 2009, at least one year prior to becoming an immediate family member of the legislator, or at least one year prior to the legislator's initial election to the legislature.
- (2) The immediate family member shall not lobby the legislator as provided in present law (R.S. 24:51), or communicate with any public employee assigned to the district office of the legislator, with any public employee whose primary duty is to assist the individual legislator, or if the legislator is a committee chairman, with any public employee assigned to the committee of which the legislator is chairman concerning any matter which may be the subject of action by the legislature.

Proposed law adds an exception for an immediate family member of a legislator if the immediate family member was a registered executive branch lobbyist as provided in present law (R.S. 49:71 et seq.) for at least one year prior to Jan. 9, 2012. Otherwise retains present law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 42:1123(39)(a))