BOARD BILL NO. 54
INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMEN
MEGAN-ELLYIA GREEN & CHRISTINE INGRASSIA,
ALDERMAN SCOTT OGILVIE, ALDERWOMAN CARA SPENCER

An ordinance banning lobbyists from the Board of Aldermen’s Chambers during meetings.

WHEREAS, under other deliberative bodies’ rules, registered lobbyists who are caught on the floor of other deliberative bodies—such as the Missouri House and Senate (see Section 21.420 of the Missouri Revised Statutes)—while they are in open session can be imprisoned; and

WHEREAS, having lobbyists on the floor of the Board of Aldermen’s Chambers during open session can lead to the appearance of impropriety.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:

No lobbyist is allowed to be on the floor of the Board of Aldermen’s Chambers while the Board is meeting. For the purpose of this Ordinance, "lobbyist" means any natural person who acts for the purpose of attempting to influence the taking, passage, amendment, delay, or defeat of any official action on any bill, resolution, amendment, nomination, appointment, report or any other action or any other matter pending or proposed in an aldermanic committee, or in any matter which may be the subject of action by the Board of Aldermen and in connection with such activity, meets the requirements of any one or more of the following:
(a) Is acting in the ordinary course of employment, which primary purpose is to influence legislation on a regular basis, on behalf of or for the benefit of such person's employer, except that this shall not apply to any person who engages in lobbying on an occasional basis only and not as a regular pattern of conduct; or

(b) Is engaged for pay or for any valuable consideration for the purpose of performing such activity; or

(c) Is designated to act as a lobbyist by any person, business entity, governmental entity, religious organization, nonprofit corporation, association or other entity; or

(d) Is required under Missouri law to register as a lobbyist (of any type) with the Missouri Ethics Commission.

"Lobbyist" shall include an attorney at law engaged in activities on behalf of any person unless excluded by any of the following exceptions. "Lobbyist" shall not include any member of the Board of Aldermen, an employee of the City of St. Louis, an elected official, or any other person solely due to such person’s participation in any of the following activities:

(a) Responding to any request for information made by any public official or employee of the Board of Aldermen;
(b) Preparing or publication of an editorial, a newsletter, newspaper, magazine, radio or television broadcast, or similar news medium, whether print or electronic;

(c) Acting within the scope of employment of the Board of Aldermen when acting with respect to the Board or any member thereof; or

(d) Testifying as a witness before the Board or any of its committees.