

2025 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SB 2315

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2315
2/20/2025

Relating to restrictions on legislative lobbyists; and to penalties for legislative lobbyists; and to provide a penalty.

11:05 a.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Roers; Vice Chair Castaneda; Senators: Barta, Braunberger, Lee and Walen.

Discussion Topics:

- Lobbyists add value
- Chamber floors
- Access to legislators

11:05 a.m. Lanny Kenner, District 7, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38147.

11:20 a.m. Senator Magrum, District 8, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #38238.

11:35 a.m. Julie Ellingson, Executive Vice President ND Stockmen's Association, testified in opposition.

11:38 a.m. Jonathan Fortner, Lignite Energy Council, testified in opposition.

11:43 a.m. Geoffrey Simon, Lobbyist Western Dakota Energy Association, testified in opposition.

Additional written testimony:

Doug Pearson, citizen, submitted testimony in favor #38144.

11:45 a.m. Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

Senate State and Local Government Committee

I am in favor of SB2315. The House and Senate Chamber is the people's house, the people of ND elected our legislators to work for us. Lobbyists should not be allowed on the floor while our legislators are working, they should be in the balcony where we have to sit.

Thankyou for your consideration

Doug Pearson

Lanny Kenner
District 7

Chairwoman Roers and committee members,

I am requesting YES votes for SB 2315.

We need to keep all lobbyists off of the House and Senate chamber floors other than sitting up in the stands like the rest of us.

Every session seems to be getting more and more bills. It takes time for the legislators to read through them and not just depend on how others vote. I don't see how it's possible to get all that work done with the lobbyists constantly bothering them. Our legislators need a safe space away from the lobbyists!

What would really be nice if more legislators would listen to their constituents more than they do to the lobbyists!

So for those reasons I am requesting YES votes on Senate bill 2315.

Thank you, Lanny Kenner

Magrum, Jeffery

SB-2315

m: Magrum, Jeffery
 it: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 9:45 PM
 To: Magrum, Jeffery
 Subject: Fw: Lobbying

Senator Magrum,

In response to your inquiry, please find below information about North Dakota historical legislative rules and statutory provisions relating to restrictions on lobbyists' access to, and limitations on legislative lobbying in, certain legislative and capitol spaces followed by a survey of relevant contemporary restrictions in other states.

As early as 1905, Senate Rule 37 provided no person shall be admitted within the bar of the Senate except the executive, members and officers of the House, state officers, judges of the Supreme Court and district courts, members of Congress, those who have been members of Congress, and the Legislative Assembly, members of the Constitutional Convention, and all federal officials in the state, except by a vote of the Senate. House Rule 44 included similar language but also provided an exception for newspaper reporters, granted admission by card of the Speaker rather than a vote of the body, and required any person lobbying on the floor of the House to forfeit the privilege granted by the rule.

Senate Bill No. 364 (1911) declared it unlawful for a lobbyist to go upon the floor of either house of the legislature, reserved for the members thereof, except upon the invitation of such house. It also declared it unlawful for any person to solicit support for or opposition to any measure from any member individually anywhere within the capitol with the exception of a lobbyist appearing before a regular committee on any measure pending therein, when in session, or by newspaper publications, public addresses, or written or printed statements, arguments, or briefs, delivered to each member of the legislature. The Act required a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500 and required the Attorney General, upon information, to bring prosecutions for violations of its provisions.

By 1937, the Senate had expanded Senate admission exceptions to include judges of county courts, present officers and employees of both houses of the Legislative Assembly, news reporters, and any other persons granted admission by majority vote of the Senate. It defined the floor of the Senate as the Senate floor together with the immediately adjacent corridor (Senate Rule 15). The House likewise modified its exceptions to include present officers and officials and all employees of both houses of the Legislative Assembly and modified its procedure to grant other persons admission via a majority vote of the House. It defined the floor of the House as the first floor of the House chamber including the corridor along its outer wall. The rule, however, no longer referenced lobbying on the floor of the House nor forfeiture of privileges granted by rule (House Rule 47).

By 1947, Senate Rule 70 referenced others granted admission by the Senate, and House Rule 76 referred to others granted admission by the Speaker, instead of admission granted by a vote of the applicable chamber.

Senate Rule 71 in 1959 redefined the Senate's courtesy of the floor to a version that more closely resembles current rules relating to clearing the chambers' floors prior to floor sessions. It provided no person except members and former members of the Legislative Assembly; their parents, spouses, and children; the Governor; former and present members of Congress; members of the press; legislative employees who have been given permanent passes; and all other persons possess temporary passes shall be entitled to the courtesy of the floor during a period beginning 15 minutes prior to the convening of the Senate and ending at the time of recess or adjournment. It also provided only persons

possessing a special pass shall be permitted upon that portion of the Senate floor between the railing and the rostrum at any time.

In 1965, the Senate no longer had a rule relating to the courtesy of the floor, and the 1969 Rules of the House omitted the courtesy of the floor rule.

In 1973, the Legislative Assembly repealed North Dakota Century Code Chapter 12-09, which included the 1911 restrictions on lobbying, via 1973 SB 2045, a large-scale criminal code revision bill (S.L. 1973, ch. 116).

Legislative Council staff was unable to locate any references to lobbying in the legislative history materials for 1973 SB 2045. However, these materials do mention the repeal of "antiquated" Title 12 provisions. Therefore, it is possible the repeal of Chapter 12-09 did not reflect an abrupt change in policy but rather served as a reflection of loosening restrictions on lobbying, as illustrated in the rule changes detailed above, or may even have reflected actual practices in place at the time.

At present, North Dakota's House Rule 205 and Senate Rule 205 require the Sergeants-at-Arms to clear the floor one hour before session of all persons other than legislators, legislative employees and guests, and media representatives with proper identification, but only in the area in front of the railing.

The rules of most other state legislatures impose more stringent restrictions on lobbyist access to legislators than the rules of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly do. Below are summaries of these provisions, as well as of a small number of relevant statutes, from other states.

Alabama House Rule 1(d) prohibits former members admitted to the floor from engaging in lobbying, denies floor privileges to former members who are registered lobbyists or paid by registered lobbyists, and provides a process for barring former members who violate these provisions from the floor for the rest of a legislative session.

Alabama Rule 4 extends floor privileges to current and former members of the Legislature and current and former governors and lieutenant governors, unless they are registered lobbyists.

Senate Rule 6 prohibits lobbying in the Senate Chamber during a floor session and prescribes, if a senator files a complaint against a former legislator for lobbying during a floor session, the Secretary of the Senate notifies the former member of the complaint; upon a second complaint, the Senate suspends the former member's floor privileges for one year.

Alabama Joint Rule 26 prohibits lobbying on the floor of either house during a floor session unless otherwise provided.

Arizona House Rule 25 prohibits persons other than House members, officers, and employees from being admitted to the House chamber floor at any time without the unanimous consent of the House or a vote in favor of such action by a two-thirds majority of the elected House members and makes an exception, subject to House revocation, for former legislators granted floor privileges by the Speaker.

Senate Rule 25 prohibits persons other than Senate members and officers from being admitted to the Senate chamber floor at any time without the unanimous consent of the Senate or a two-thirds Senate vote and makes an exception, subject to Senate revocation, for former senators, current House members, and current Senate employees granted floor privileges by the President of the Senate.

Arkansas House Rule 88 prohibits lobbyists from accessing the House floor, work areas, or support areas and prohibits anyone other than a legislator from advocating for or against a bill in the House chamber while the House is in session.

Senate Rule 21.5 prohibits a lobbyist, including a former legislator registered as a lobbyist, from being in the Senate chamber while the Senate is in session.

California Assembly Rule 118 prohibits admission of a lobbyist to the Assembly chamber during a floor session under any circumstances.

Assembly Rule 117.5 prohibits a member from texting with any lobbyist while the member is on the Assembly floor during a floor session or during a committee hearing of a committee on which that member serves.

Senate Rule 55(c) prohibits the admission of a lobbyist to the Senate chamber during a Senate floor session.

Senate Rule 47(19) authorizes suspension of the rule prohibiting lobbying activities in the Senate chamber upon a four-fifths majority of the elected members of the Senate.

Colorado House Rule 39 prohibits lobbyists from being admitted to the House floor prior to noon and during a floor session on any day in which the House is in session, including as a committee of the whole.

Senate Rule 31 denies lobbyists access to the Senate floor unless a lobbyist is a former member authorized to address the Senate regarding a memorial expressing sympathy for the death of a former senator.

Connecticut House Rule 42 prohibits lobbyists from admission to the House floor on any day in which it is in session, except during a public hearing or if authorized by the presiding officer for a ceremony or other recognition.

Senate Rule 28 prohibits lobbyists from admission to the Senate floor on any day in which it is in session, except during a public hearing.

Joint Rule 30(b) prohibits lobbyists from accessing the Legislative Commissioners' Office, the Office of Fiscal Analysis, and the Office of Legislative Research with an exception for the legislative library.

Idaho House Rule 57(a) prohibits admission to the House floor for anyone other than former governors, former legislators, the Governor's representatives, legislators and their staff members, Division of Research staff, Cabinet Department representatives, and certain members of the media. It requires former governors and former legislators who are registered lobbyists to obtain the Speaker's consent prior to floor admission.

Senate Rule 57 prohibits anyone other than legislators and their staff members, certain current and former state and federal officials, and Division of Research and Office of the Controller General staff from being granted the privilege of the floor without the consent of the Senate.

Florida House Rule 8.1 provides only House members have the right to enter the House chamber during floor sessions, provides for exceptions that may be granted by the Speaker, and prohibits any lobbyist from obtaining admittance. It also prohibits any person granted the privilege of the floor from lobbying any House members during a floor session unless granted permission to address the House of Representatives.

Senate Rule 10.1 provides only Senate members, Senate officers and employees performing their duties, persons charged with delivering messages and other papers to the Senate, certain current and former state and federal officials, a designee of the Governor, and individuals invited by the President have the right to enter the Senate chamber's main floor during a floor session of the Senate.

Senate Rule 10.2 bars lobbyists from Senate chamber admission without the approval of the President. It also prohibits persons granted the privilege of the floor from lobbying on legislation during a Senate floor session.

Georgia House Rule 7.9 prohibits any person lobbying or trying to influence legislation from being admitted to or allowed to remain on the House floor.

Senate Rule 9-1.4(b) prohibits any person lobbying or trying to influence legislation from being admitted to the Senate floor or the south anteroom while the Senate is in session as well as to the Senate floor in the 15 minutes before and after convening a floor session or during a recess.

Hawaii House Rule 7.1 requires the Sergeants-at-Arms to keep the floor clear of all persons other than House members, authorized employees, and guests.

Idaho House Rule 71 prohibits anyone lobbying on a measure from being permitted on the House floor unless invited by a House member.

Senate Rule 46 prohibits anyone lobbying on a measure from being permitted on the Senate floor except by invitation of a Senate member. It prohibits any person from lobbying on a bill in the Senate chamber while the Senate is in session, except if a senator to whom a lobbyist has requested to speak authorizes the lobbyist to do so.

Illinois House Rule 30(d) prohibits lobbyists from being allowed access to the House floor during the session.

Senate Rule 4-3(d) prohibits lobbyists from being allowed access to the Senate floor during the session.

Indiana House Rule 27(c) prohibits anyone who is a registered lobbyist, including a former legislator, from accessing the Senate Chamber.

Iowa House Rule 20 prohibits registered lobbyists from being admitted to the House floor on any legislative day except to attend ceremonies or public hearings. It also prohibits lobbying by anyone other than General Assembly members on any matter that may be before the House.

Senate Rule 45 provides only General Assembly members and legislative staff shall have Senate chamber access.

Kansas House Rule 501(c) prohibits the presence of lobbyists on the House floor from 15 minutes prior to convening until 15 minutes after adjourning a floor session.

Senate Rule 56 prohibits registered lobbyists from being on the Senate floor when the Senate is in session and from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Kentucky House Rule 71 prohibits anyone other than current and former legislators, legislative officers, and legislative employees from being within the Capitol Annex third and fourth floor member offices during a House floor session and from being on the floor of the House of Representatives for an hour before, and hour after, and during a floor session.

House Rule 72 prohibits lobbying on a measure in the corridors, passages, or rooms of the Capitol and Capitol Annex assigned to the House during a House session or recess and prohibits registered lobbyist access to these areas as well as to Capitol Annex third and fourth floor member offices while the House is in session.

Senate Rule 70 prohibits anyone other than legislators, Senate officers and employees, and senators' immediate family members from being on the Senate floor for an hour before, a half-hour after, and during a Senate floor session, including when the Senate meets in a committee of the whole. It also prohibits granting privilege of the floor to any lobbyist or legislative agent.

Senate Rule 71 prohibits lobbying on a measure in the corridors, passages, or rooms of the Capitol assigned to the Senate during a Senate session or recess and prohibits registered lobbyist access to this area of the Capitol while the Senate is in session, including while it is meeting as a committee of the whole.

Louisiana House Rule 1.2 provides only legislators and certain legislative staff and officers are allowed on the floor on the House while it is in session.

House Rule 1.5 prohibits anyone granted access to the House floor from lobbying on any legislation or other matter before the House during a legislative session. For violations of this provision, it provides a penalty of removal from the Chamber by order of the presiding officer as well as revocation and confiscation of any issued badge.

Senate Rule 1.2 prohibits any lobbyist from being allowed in the Senate Library and prohibits a former senator who is a registered lobbyist from also entering certain portions of the Senate Floor, the Secretary's office, and the area behind the Secretary's desk, in contrast to former senators who are not registered lobbyists.

Senate Rule 1.3 provides only legislators and certain legislative staff and officers are allowed on the Senate floor from 30 minutes before to 30 minutes after a floor session.

Maine Senate Rule 102 bans registered lobbyists from the desks of Senate members and prohibits a lobbyist from initiating communication with a senator in the Senate chamber during a floor session except through a note delivered by staff requesting a meeting at the back of the Senate.

Maryland House Rule 10 prohibits anyone from admission to the floor of the House while the House is in session other than current and former House of Delegates members, current senators, current and former Governors, Judges of the Court of Appeals, and others designated by the Speaker.

Senate Rule 10 prohibits anyone from admission to the floor of the Senate while the Senate is in session other than current and former legislators, the Governor and the Governor's designated representatives, former governors, Judges of the Court of Appeals, certain legislative staff members, legislative officers, the chaplain, certain media, and other persons to whom the President grants admission upon the request of a senator.

Massachusetts House Rule 80 provides no person other than certain state officials, senators, chamber employees or others exercising official duties, candidates for House seats, and legislative reporters in the galleries may enter the House during a session without the permission of the Speaker. It prohibits legislative agents or counsel from House Chamber floor admission during a session except during a portion of a session that is solely ceremonial and at which no other business takes place. Suspension of this rule requires approval of all House members present.

House Rule 81(b) prohibits legislative agents and counsel from accessing the members' hallway and adjacent rooms except by written invitation from a member specifying the name of the member with whom the invitee will meet and requiring presentation of the invitation to a court officer prior to entrance. Suspension of this rule may only take place through unanimous consent of the House members present.

Michigan House Rule 2(4), with very limited exceptions, bans lobbyists and employees of lobbyists from the House floor, which includes the Representative Hall main floor and certain second floor rooms.

Senate Rule 3.902(a)(2) prohibits registered lobbyists and lobbyist agents from accessing the Senate floor and prohibits them from accessing a hallway behind the rostrum except when traveling to two specific locations.

Minnesota House Rule 2.40 prohibits individuals other than members of the Minnesota Legislature and their family members, certain state and federal officers, authorized employees, persons invited to address the bodies, and approved media from admission to the House Chamber. It authorizes other persons to receive a one-day permit from the Speaker, requires them to sit in a certain designated area, and prohibits them from attempting to influence the business of the House.

Senate Rule 15 prohibits individuals other than legislative members, certain state and federal officers and, with personal admission, past legislative and Congressional members without an interest in any matters pending in the legislature;

employees of either chamber; members of federal, other state, or provincial legislative bodies; the persons leading the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance; and individual guests of members-elect from admission to the Senate Chamber but authorizes admission of nonmembers when the Senate is not in session upon the request of a Senate member or officer.

Mississippi House Rule 89 prohibits anyone other than legislators, representatives' spouses, former legislators who are not registered lobbyists, legislative officers and employees, credentialed media, invited ministers, and others designated by the Committee on Rules from entering the House floor.

Senate Rule 28 prohibits anyone other than legislators and their immediate family members, elected state officials, former legislators who are not registered lobbyists, legislative officers and employees, ministers and other guests invited by the President, and others designated by the Rules Committee from entering the Senate floor while the Senate is in session.

Missouri House Rule 123 prohibits anyone other than House members and officers, House leadership staff, and technical staff assisting with equipment at the request of the Speaker from House floor or East Gallery admission unless the House consents.

House Rule 124 prohibits anyone other than legislators and their spouses, legislative employees, certain elected state and federal officials and select staff members, former legislators who are not lobbyists, and physically disabled persons from House lower gallery admission.

Senate Rule 94 prohibits anyone other than representatives, former senators, and certain state and federal elected officials from Senate chamber admission while the Senate is in session, unless invited by the body, with exceptions in certain areas for senators' family members as well as for persons for whom senators make special requests. It also prohibits anyone other than senators from accessing the Senate third floor rear gallery when the Senate is in session.

Montana House Rule 20-30 prohibits registered lobbyists from being on the House floor and prohibits lobbying during, hours before, and two hours after floor sessions on the House floor or in its anteroom.

Senate Rule 20-50 extends floor privileges during, one hour before, and one-half hour after sessions only to legislators, legislative officers and employees whose presence is necessary for the conduct of a session's business, registered media representatives, former legislators who are not currently registered as lobbyists, and visiting dignitaries for whom the President has made an exception.

Nebraska Unicameral Legislature Rule 2(3)(c) prohibits admission of registered lobbyists into the chamber.

Nevada Assembly Rule No. 53 requests members converse with lobbyists away from committee room daises and prohibits lobbyists, at a committee chair's direction, from being allowed at a committee dais.

Assembly Rule No. 94 prohibits anyone from lobbying on the Assembly floor at any time and requires the Sergeant at Arms to remove anyone who violates this rule.

Senate Rule No. 94 extends floor privileges during sessions only to state officers, Senate members and officers, Legislative Counsel Bureau employees, Senate staff, Assembly members needed to transact business, and guests of senators on special occasions designated by the Majority Leader.

New Hampshire House Rule 17 prohibits persons other than House members and officers, the Governor, Council members, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer, the President of the Senate, and Senate Clerks from entering the House chamber or anteroom during a floor session.

Senate Rule 2-30 prohibits persons other than members of the Senate and its officers, the Governor, Council members, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and House officers and clerks from

accessing the Senate floor during a Senate floor session unless invited by the President or invited by a Senate member with the President's consent.

New Jersey General Assembly Rule 4:11 requires the Speaker to prohibit registered legislative agents from being present on the Assembly chamber floor while the General Assembly is conducting official business.

New Mexico House Rule 23-6 and Senate Rule 23-6 prohibit any person seeking specific action on legislation from accessing the corresponding chamber's floor or lobbying during a floor session.

House Rule 23-12 and Senate Rule 23-12 exclude media representatives who are paid to influence legislation from each chamber's press room privileges.

New York Assembly Rule 1(3)(d) and Senate Rule X(2)(h) deny floor admission to persons interested in or paid to influence legislation.

North Carolina House Rule 50 prohibits anyone other than legislators, officers, and designated employees who have identification tags as well as former legislators who are not registered as lobbyists from being allowed on the House floor during a floor session.

Senate Rule 67 prohibits a registered lobbyist from being admitted to the Senate floor or chamber during a floor session, being admitted to or remaining on the floor within 15 minutes of the start of a floor session, and from being admitted to the floor during the 15 minutes after a floor session unless a committee is meeting on the Senate floor.

Ohio House Rule 109 prohibits anyone other than the Governor, members and employees of the Ohio Legislature, persons charged with messages or documents affecting the House's business, authorized media representatives, guests invited by representatives with Speaker or presiding officer approval, and guests invited by an order of the House from admission to the Hall of the House. It also prohibits former members who are registered lobbyists from accessing the House floor without prior approval of the Speaker or presiding officer.

Senate Rule 107 prohibits anyone other than legislators, legislative officers and employees performing their duties, persons entrusted with messages and papers for the Senate, clergy invited by the President, state governors, and media representatives granted Senate privileges by the President from being granted admission within the railing during a Senate voting session. It also prohibits anyone other than senators, members' guests, and Senate officers and employees performing their duties from being allowed within the railing of the Senate chamber when the Senate is adjourned or in recess without permission of the President.

Oklahoma Statutes Section 74-4252 prohibits a lobbyist from entering the floor of the House or Senate while that body is in session unless invited by that house.

House Rule 5.1 prohibits anyone other than legislators; former legislators who are not lobbyists; the Governor, except when considering an override of a gubernatorial veto; legislators' children and grandchildren for purposes of introduction; and legislative employees designated by the Speaker from entering the House floor when the House is in session, except when invited by the House.

House Rule 5.2 prohibits anyone other than the persons named in House Rule 5.1, immediate family members of representatives, and House employees authorized by the Speaker from being admitted to the House lounge and certain anterooms unless invited and accompanied by a House member.

Senate Rule 8-7 prohibits anyone other than current and former senators, the Secretary of the Senate, Senate employees designated by the President Pro Tempore, representatives, current and former governors and lieutenant governors, certain family members of senators, and any persons permitted access by a majority vote of senators present

from being in the Senate chamber or its lobbies during floor sessions. It also specifies these floor privileges do not apply to registered lobbyists.

Oregon House Rule 17.01(8) prohibits lobbyists from being on the House floor or in its side aisles during a floor session of the House of Representatives.

Senate Rule 17.01 prohibits courtesies of the floor from being extended to former members who are also lobbyists. It prohibits lobbyists from being in the Senate Chamber area while the Senate is in session and provides penalties for violating this provision, including removal from the area and statutory penalties for violating lobbying regulations. It also prohibits lobbyists from sending notes to legislators during Senate floor sessions.

Pennsylvania House Rule 75 prohibits any lobbyist from gaining admission to the Hall of the House.

Senate Rule 24 prohibits anyone from gaining Senate Chamber, excepting Senate Gallery and Senate Press Gallery, admission while the Senate is in session without an invitation from leadership.

Rhode Island House Rule 38(a) prohibits anyone other than current General Assembly members, staff assigned by the Speaker or Minority Leader, and authorized press members from being admitted to the House floor, unless the Speaker approves admission for a specific purpose.

Senate Rule 10.4-1 prohibits anyone other than General Assembly members and staff, senatorial guests, and authorized press from being admitted to the Senate chamber during, as well as in the ten minutes prior to the convening of, a floor session without the permission of the Senate President.

South Carolina House Rule 10.1 prohibits anyone other than current and former legislators and legislative officers; current legislative employees; press, dignitaries, and family of members designated by the Speaker; certain elected state officers; statewide constitutional officers; and persons invited through House resolutions from being admitted to the House Chamber while the House is in session and requires certain employees to remain behind the chamber's back rail. It also prohibits lobbyists from entering the Hall unless granted special permission from the House of Representatives.

Senate Rule 35 prohibits anyone other than representatives and former legislators from being admitted to the Senate floor inside the rail. It prohibits anyone other than senators' immediate family members; legislators; certain legislative officers; former legislators who are not lobbyists; candidates or individuals acting on behalf of candidates for offices elected by the General Assembly or elected or confirmed by the House or Senate; agency staff; the Governor and one member of the Governor's staff; constitutional officers; Supreme Court Justices; certain elected federal officials; governors of other states and territories; and certain Senate staff as the Senate's president, members, or officers may invite from being admitted to the floor of the Senate behind the rail. It also prohibits anyone other than the foregoing persons from having access to Senate areas beyond the outer doors of the antechamber starting two hours prior to and during a floor session unless accompanied by a senator and requires any accompanied guest to promptly leave the area at the conclusion of the guest's business.

South Dakota Joint Rule 2-4 prohibits lobbyists from entering the chambers or adjacent spaces reserved for legislators for three hours prior to, one hour after, and during a floor session under any circumstances.

Tennessee House Rule 22 prohibits anyone other than legislators, certain employees and media representatives, and the physician and chaplain of the day from being admitted to the House floor for 30 minutes prior to, 30 minutes after, and during a House floor session.

Senate Rule 6 prohibits anyone other than legislators, certain employees, the chaplain and doctor of the day, other persons designated by the Speaker, and media within designated areas from being admitted to the Senate floor for 30 minutes prior to, 30 minutes after, and during a Senate floor session.

Texas Government Code Section 305.023 prohibits lobbyists from entering the floor of either house of the legislature when it is in session unless invited by that house.

House Rule 5(15) prohibits anyone who is lobbying on any measure, other than the Governor or legislators, from being on the House floor or in its adjacent rooms during a session of the House.

House Rule 5(17) prohibits anyone other than legislators and former legislators who are not lobbyists from accessing the members' lounge.

Senate Rule 2.03 prohibits anyone who is lobbying on a measure, including state officers, from being on the floor of the Senate when it is in session.

Utah House Rule 2-4-101.2 prohibits lobbyists from being on the floor of the House during an annual general session or a special session, and **House Rule 2-4-103** explicitly prohibits lobbying on the floor of the House.

House Rule 2-4-101.3 and **House Rule 2-4-101.4** authorize representatives to invite lobbyists into the House lounge, the representative's office, or a House conference room and requires the representative to ensure the lobbyists vacate these areas upon conclusion of the meeting to which they were invited.

Senate Rule 2-4-101 prohibits anyone other than legislators, legislative officers and staff, former legislators who are not lobbyists, legislators' spouses, interns, and persons invited by senators from being allowed in the Senate's chamber, halls, and lounge and authorizes the President to deny access to these areas to anyone, other than a legislator, who is attempting to influence legislative decisions.

Senate Rule 2-4-103 prohibits lobbying by anyone other than a legislator in the Senate chamber.

Mont House Rule 84 prohibits anyone other than certain state and federal officials, certain former state officials, certain legislative officers, legislators from other states, and other persons approved by the Speaker from being admitted to the well of the House.

Virginia House Rule 83 prohibits anyone other than current and former legislators, certain state and federal officials, legislative officers and employees, and other persons designated by the Speaker from being allowed on the House floor during the session and provides floor privileges granted to any of the forenamed persons do not apply to anyone who has business for compensation before the House or its committees.

Senate Rule 17 prohibits anyone other than legislators, the President of the Senate, certain legislative officers and employees, and media at press tables from entering the Senate floor for 15 minutes prior to, 5 minutes after, and during a floor session of the Senate.

Washington House Rule 8(c) prohibits anyone other than representatives and certain employees from being admitted to the floor of the House of Representatives during a House floor session. It prohibits admission of anyone other than the Governor or Governor's designees, senators, elected state officials, officers and authorized legislative employees, former representatives who are not lobbyists, press representatives, and other persons authorized by the Speaker to the House chamber for a half hour prior to, a half hour after, and during a floor session of the House of Representatives. It also prohibits lobbying, unless explicitly authorized, in the House chamber, committee rooms, and lounge rooms when the House of Representatives or one of its committees is in session and prescribes a penalty for violating this provision of forfeiture of the right to House chamber and committee room admission.

Senate Rule 10 prohibits anyone other than the Governor and the Governor's designees, representatives, elected state officials, legislative officers and authorized employees, honored Senate guests, former senators who are not lobbyists, press representatives, and persons a senator requests in writing to the President accompany the senator from being on the Senate's floor and in its adjacent areas for a half hour prior to, a half hour after, and during Senate floor sessions.

West Virginia House Rule 137 prohibits anyone from lobbying on the House floor or in its foyer during a legislative session and provides a penalty for any nonmember within the Chamber attempting to influence legislative opinions or votes on legislative matters during a House floor session of being removed and debarred from the Chamber for the rest of the session.

Senate Rule 54 prohibits anyone other than House of Delegates members, former legislators who are not lobbyists, accredited press, legislative officers, and legislative employees and interns engaged in their duties from being admitted to the Senate Chamber floor during a session of the Senate.

Senate Rule 55 prohibits any nonmember from attempting to influence any legislative matter, including through electronic communications, and prescribes a penalty of Chamber disbarment for the rest of the legislative session for a violation of this provision.

Wisconsin Assembly Rule 25 prohibits anyone other than current and former legislators, elected state officers, members of Congress, Supreme Court justices, legislative officers and their designees, media representatives, persons invited by the presiding officer or through Assembly action, and contestants for a disputed seat when that matter is before the Assembly from being admitted to the Assembly floor for 15 minutes before, 15 minutes after, and during a floor session of the Assembly. It also denies floor privileges to anyone other than a legislator or elected state officer who is lobbying on any legislation before the Assembly or who is registered as a lobbyist.

Senate Rule 11 prohibits anyone other than the governor, lieutenant governor, legislators, sergeant at arms staff, designated technical staff, and designated Chief Clerk's staff members from being admitted to the Senate floor where the members sit while in session. It prohibits anyone other than state officers, legislative employees engaged in their duties, members of Congress, Supreme Court justices, and former legislators from being admitted to the Senate staff lobby while the Senate is in session. It also prohibits any of the aforementioned persons who are registered as lobbyists lobbying on any pending legislation as well as former legislators who are "interested in defeating or promoting any pending legislation" from being granted Senate floor privileges.

Wyoming House Rule 15-1 prohibits anyone other than current and former representatives, senators, legislative employees, state officers, and individuals invited by House members and authorized by a majority of elected House members from being admitted to the bar of the House. It prohibits anyone other than a member from lobbying on legislation in the House chambers and prohibits a former member who is a lobbyist from being granted floor privileges to address House members on any matter while the House is in session. It also prohibits anyone other than legislators, legislative staff, and guests of legislators from being granted access to the House lounge and prohibits members from engaging in cell phone calls during a House floor session.

Senate Rule 15-1 prohibits anyone other than legislative members, officers, and staff from being admitted within the bar of the Senate, unless invited by the Senate or the Senate President.

Senate Rule 15-5 prohibits lobbying within the Senate Chambers.

Please let us know if you would like any additional information relating to your request.

Thank You,



Legislative Council

Kylah E. Aull

Manager, Library and Records

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ND Term-Limits Plan Could Give More Power to Lobbyists



Play



According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 15 states have term limits for legislators. (Adobe Stock)

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Mike Moen, Producer



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Why you can trust Public News Service
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BISMARCK, N.D. - Next year, North Dakota voters could be asked to consider a plan often floated as a way to shake up traditional politics.

Term limits are viewed as a populist reform tool, but one expert says in this state, it might benefit influential voices working behind the scenes.

North Dakota's secretary of state is deciding whether to approve a planned petition drive to impose term limits on the governor's office and for state lawmakers. It's being pushed by a group of ultraconservative elected and party officials.

University of North Dakota political scientist Mark Jendrysik said there is a side effect to consider here.

"In a lot of states, lobbying organizations - whether it's for business or for ideological lobbying groups, you know - present model legislation for the Legislature," said Jendrysik. "And, you know, quite often in North Dakota that's the legislation that gets adopted."

That's because North Dakota lawmakers are only considered "part time" and have limited staff to help write policy. He said higher turnover will give lobbying groups more influence to draft laws that can't exactly tailored for North Dakota.

Political experts say term limits also prevent voters from choosing who they want. Those behind the plan argue term limits open up citizen access to the process while doing away with career politicians.

Jendrysik acknowledged it may help weed out politicians who use their office to gain more power for themselves and those close to them. But he said it wouldn't be beneficial to see experience fall by the wayside.

"I think you would lose a lot of the people who've learned how the Legislature works over time," said Jendrysik. "And you would certainly lose people in leadership positions who really direct the activities of the Legislature."

He said those leaders play a role in identifying proposals from national lobbying groups that don't align with North Dakota's electorate.

The plan calls for limits of eight years in office for the governor, State House and state Senate.

A group of approximately 15 people, mostly men in suits and a few women, are standing behind a wooden podium in a room with wood-paneled walls. They are holding microphones and appear to be speaking or about to speak. In the foreground, the backs of several audience members' heads are visible. The scene is a press conference. A large blue banner at the top of the image contains the text "Press Conference Against Term Limits". A smaller blue banner at the bottom contains the text "Hmm... explains why they don't like term limits." Red labels with white text are placed above each person, identifying them as either "Lobbyist" or "Politician". The labels are: Lobbyist, Lobbyist, Politician, Lobbyist, Politician, Lobbyist, Lobbyist, Lobbyist, Lobbyist, Lobbyist, Lobbyist, Lobbyist, Lobbyist, Politician, and Lobbyist.

Hmm... explains why they don't like term limits.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2315
2/20/2025

Relating to restrictions on legislative lobbyists; and to penalties for legislative lobbyists; and to provide a penalty.

4:14 p.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Roers; Vice Chair Castaneda; Senators: Barta, Braunberger, Lee and Walen.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

4:17 p.m. Senator Walen moved Do Not Pass

4:17 p.m. Senator Lee seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jose L. Castaneda	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Chuck Walen	Y

Motion Passed 6-0-0

Senator Castaneda will carry the bill.

4:22 p.m. Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2315 ([25.0593.03000](#))

State and Local Government Committee (Sen. Roers, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2315 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.