

Assessment of the problem SF567 addresses, February 27, 2025

Senate Elections & Finance Committee

We support SF567 because in its totality it directly addresses the problem with the revolving door between electeds and lobby jobs. It also protects the integrity and confidence of the legislative process. We urged members to vote "yes" on SF567.

A Cooling-Off Period of at least four years is necessary to ensure both chambers go through one election cycle, allowing for changes in committee assignments and leadership structure. SF567 will help restore faith in the legislative process and ensure electeds remain accountable to the constituents.

1. **Revolving Door Issue:** The increasing "revolving door" between politicians and lobbying jobs with special interests undermines the integrity and confidence in the legislative process.
2. **Unfair Influence:** Politicians taking up lobbying jobs immediately after leaving office gain unfair influence over laws and policies they helped shape.
3. **Erosion of Trust:** This practice erodes public trust in elected officials and weakens confidence in the legislative process.
4. **Insider Knowledge:** Without a cooling-off period, former politicians carry insider knowledge and access to key decision-makers, giving special interests an unfair advantage.
5. **Public Disadvantage:** The public loses out while those with money and power gain an unfair advantage.
6. **Self-Serving Politics:** The practice encourages a culture of self-serving politics, where public office is seen as a pathway to private gain.
7. **Policy Decisions:** It leads to policy decisions that benefit powerful lobbyists and donors rather than regular citizens.
8. **Democracy Erosion:** It erodes the foundation of democracy, which should be built on fairness, transparency, and accountability.

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