

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT FOR LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2015 AS AN OCCUPATIONAL
MECHANISM RECOGNIZED IN REPRESENTING THE INTEREST OF
STAKEHOLDERS CONCERNED WITH A BILL AND FOR OTHER RELATED
MATTERS

Sponsored by Senator Dino Melaye

[] Commencement

BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal
Republic of Nigeria as follows:

- 1 1. The lobby disclosure Act is an enactment of legislation making Lobbying
2 lobbying in the National Assembly a "Profession" as set out in the Act. Disclosure Act
- 3 2.-(1) A lobbyist mobilizes the "grassroot" by urging citizens to Who is a lobbyist?
4 contact their lawmaker on issue.
- 5 (2) A lobbyist attend hearing, follow legislation or proposes
6 legislation. .
- 7 (3) Spend money on lobbying efforts.
- 8 (4) Attempts to obtain the goodwill of a public official through
9 activities that build relations even if not specifically geared towards
10 legislation.
- 11 3.-(1) This bill will: Regulatory
12 (a) create stricter registration requirements; Conditions
- 13 (b) Requiring lobbyist to disclose how much they make & spend on
14 lobbying;
- 15 (c) Banning lobbyist from paying for gifts and food as a means of
16 inducement;
- 17 (d) Imposing a time period before a legislator can become a
18 lobbyist;
- 19 (e) Creating ethics oversight by establishing ethics commissions &

	1	legislative ethics committee;
	2	(f) Giving oversight agencies more power to investigate violation of
	3	ethics laws.
Lobbying the Legislature	4	4.-(1) Lobbyist helps shape public policy by properly investigating
	5	facts that helps the legislator take a better position in legislative law making
	6	process. Lobbyist can be a great source information for the legislator, that can
	7	provide a transparent environment for the legislative interaction that promotes
	8	effective and constructive opportunities for the public and interest groups to
	9	participate in legislative process.
The role of lobbyist and lobbying in the legislature process	10	5.-(1) A lobbyist understands how government works by tracking
	11	governmental activities. A lobbyist build relationships, link government and
	12	clients communication, discloses lobbying activities and achieve the clients
	13	goals.
	14	A lobbyist good performance is based on understanding the client,
	15	communicate informal honestly and maintain credibility and trust.
	16	A lobbyist -must have a defining ethics standard of conduct, moral judgment,
	17	adherence to rules of law and above all maintain a core value.
Lobbying Law	18	6.-(1) This legislative proposal if passed into law, must incorporate,
	19	disclosure of lobbying activities and practices to require identification badges
	20	and report connection to public officials. And that, a lobbyist must be
	21	transparent and practice accountability, tell the truth, keep his words, operate
	22	with integrity and be true to his values.
Reason for the Bill as practiced in other democrats	23	7.-(1) Lobbying is not bribery. It is an essential ingredient in the
	24	representative democracy we practice here in Nigeria. It is a critical factor in
	25	passing or not passing good legislation. The role of lobbying in legislation is to:
	26	(i) Provide accurate data & historical aspect of a particular legislative
	27	measure;
	28	(ii) Research issues with regards to pending legislation;
	29	(iii) Educate and inform legislators on all the matters involved in a

1 particular legislative proposal and influence the outcome of a bill one way or
2 the other.

3 8.-(1) There are many instances where bills are passed affecting
4 important sectors of the economy without the stakeholders making any
5 effort to inform the legislator of their interest. With lobbying the time to
6 influence legislation or criticize a particular legislative measures before
7 passage of the bill not after it has become the law of the land. The fact is that,
8 legislators rely on their staff for information on any pending bill. The staff
9 may be inadequate. Lobbyist comes up with appropriate information based
10 on resources to aid legislators take an informed view on a pending
11 legislation.

Lobbying as a
source of
legislature
information

12 Accordingly, lobbying if made a "profession" need to be strongly
13 established in Nigeria to aid our democratic practices. It has to be regulated
14 with dear guidelines as who should be a Lobbyist.

15 9. In this Act requires:

Interpretation

- 16 “Lobbying” To try to persuade a politician to support or oppose a bill;
17 “Legislative” A body of people with power to make and change law;
18 “Disclosure” The action of making known;
19 “Profession” A licensed occupation.

20 10. This Bill may be cited as the lobbying disclosure Act of 2015 as
21 an occupational mechanism in the interest of stakeholders concerned with a
22 Bill.

Short Title

23 FINANCIAL COMPENDIUM

24 0.72 of the statutory allocation will be contributed to the National Assembly
25 for the purposes of effective management of the lobbying disclosure Act.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seek to make lobbying a “Profession” as a mechanism recognized
in representing the interest of stakeholders concerned with a Bill.