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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5547**

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING LOBBYIST CONTRIBUTIONS DURING LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill extends the sessional ban on contributions and solicitations by lobbyists and lobbyist political committees (known as PACs) to additional entities. It also eliminates an exemption from these bans for exploratory committees established by state legislators to promote their candidacy for non-legislative offices.

Specifically, it expands the ban to cover (1) candidate or exploratory committees established by candidates for municipal office or probate judges; (2) PACs established, requested, or created in consultation with candidates for municipal offices or probate judges, or their agents; or (3) PACs controlled by candidates for state, legislative, or municipal office, or probate judges, or their agents, to assist in the nomination or election of any candidate for state, legislative, or municipal office or probate judge.

Current law and the bill prohibit (1) lobbyists and PACs established by or for a lobbyist from making or offering to make contributions to or on behalf of these committees, (2) lobbyists from soliciting contributions for them, and (3) the committees from accepting the contributions.

Under current law, the ban generally applies to contributions or solicitations for (1) candidate or exploratory committees for a legislative or statewide office and (2) PACs established by or for legislators or state officers or controlled by them or their agents.

Under the bill, a “municipal office” and “municipal officer” are elected offices or officers for which only the electors of a single town, city, borough, or political subdivision may vote (other than state senator or representative). As under current law, the ban applies during regular

legislative sessions, any special session held between the end of a long session and the start of a short session, and any veto session held in an odd-numbered year.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/23/2026)