



## CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

### Summary of Proposed Constitutional Revision

#### **Revision 7 (P 6007) – Lobbying and Abuse of Office by Public Officers**

*By Style and Drafting Committee; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Carlos Beruff; Pam Bondi; Lisa Carlton; Hank Coxe; Don Gaetz; Emery Gainey; Brecht Heuchan; Fred Karlinsky; Frank Kruppenbacher; Tom Lee; Roberto Martinez; Rich Newsome; Sherry Plymale; Darryl Rouson; William “Bill” Schifino, Jr.; Chris Sprowls; Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch; Carolyn Timmann*

Revision 7 establishes additional ethics requirements for public officers, former judicial officers, and public employees. The revision prohibits a public officer or former judicial officer from lobbying for compensation on issues of policy, appropriations, or procurement before the federal government, the Legislature, any state government body or agency, or any political subdivision of the state during his or her term of office and for a specified period after vacation of his or her office. Public officers include statewide elected officers, members of the Legislature, county commissioners, county officers, school board members, school superintendents, elected municipal officers, elected special district officers, or persons serving as secretary, executive director, or other agency head of an executive department. The revision requires public officers and former judicial officers, as specified below, to observe the following lobbying restrictions for six years after vacation of office:

- Statewide elected officers or members of the Legislature – Prohibited from lobbying the Legislature or any state government body or agency.
- Persons serving as secretary, executive director, or other agency head of an executive department – Prohibited from lobbying the Legislature, the Governor, the Executive Office of the Governor, members of the Cabinet, a department headed by a member of the Cabinet, or his or her former department.
- County commissioners, county officers, school board members, school superintendents, elected municipal officers and elected special district officers – Prohibited from lobbying his or her former agency or governing body.
- Justices and judges – Prohibited from lobbying the Legislature or executive branch.

Revision 7 also prohibits public officers and public employees from abusing their public position to obtain a disproportionate benefit for themselves, specified family members, an employer, or business entities associated with the public officer or public employee. The revision requires the Florida Commission on Ethics to adopt rules defining “disproportionate benefit” by October 1, 2019, and requires the Legislature to prescribe appropriate penalties for violations.

If approved by the voters, provisions of Revision 7 related to lobbying take effect December 31, 2022. Provisions of Revision 7 related to violations of the prohibition against abuse of a public position take effect December 31, 2020.

*Vote: 30-4*