

Campaign for Good Government: Transparency & Accountability

Corporate special interests have been influencing our elections for years, but the corporate corruption of our legislative process is just as dangerous – and it's growing. Granite State Progress has teamed up with a bi-partisan group of legislators to introduce bills that will increase disclosure and transparency for special interests who are working behind closed doors to do the most fundamental act of lobbying: writing our state laws.

[HB 245 - Disclosure of Model Acts](#)

Problem: Knowing who is writing our state laws -- and why -- is an important part of having an open and transparent government. For example, the American Legislative Exchange Council, otherwise known as ALEC, allows corporate lobbyists to write legislation that directly benefits their bottom line, often at the expense of every day Granite Staters. This legislation is then provided to state legislators who are then encouraged to introduce it in State Houses across the country. During the 2011-2012 legislative session, Granite State Progress identified a total of 30 ALEC model bills; 16 of which became law.

Solution: HB 245 simply requires that bill sponsors disclose the source of a model act when submitting it for consideration in the New Hampshire legislature. To be considered a model act, the legislation has to be national cookie-cutter legislation that is officially voted on and adopted by a group or business, then distributed *in more than one state*. Home-grown New Hampshire bills would not be impacted, nor will model laws from other states. A similar process already exists if a bill is sponsored at the request of a state department.

Vote: Good government should be a shared democratic value regardless of political party or persuasion; no one should shy away from identifying who is drafting our state laws and why. Legislators, the public, and the press have a right to know and this bill will apply equally to conservative and liberal groups, to Democrats and Republicans, to partisans and nonpartisans. **We urge you to support HB 245.**

Have you worked to challenge any of these model bills?

- ✓ [handbook on how to repeal or block Obamacare](#)
- ✓ [Voter ID](#)
- ✓ [privatizing public education](#)
- ✓ [eliminating the state minimum wage](#)
- ✓ [passing a supermajority act for state budgets](#)
- ✓ [putting parental rights over the best interest of children](#)
- ✓ [repealing RGGI](#)
- ✓ [Stand Your Ground/Kill at Will](#)
- ✓ [prison privatization](#)
- ✓ *and so many others ...*



We support good government and transparency. You should too!

HOUSE BILL 245

AN ACT relative to identification of the source of legislative bill proposals.

2017 SPONSORS: Rep. J. Schmidt, Hills. 28; Rep. Read, Rock. 17

(2014 SPONSORS: Rep. Chase, Ches 8; Rep. Moody, Rock 17; Rep. Shepardson, Ches 10; Rep. C. Sweeney, Sull 8; Rep. Theberge, Coos 3; Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21)

COMMITTEE: Legislative Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill requires the identification of a private organization responsible for distributing a model act used by a legislator to propose legislation, as provided by the legislation's prime sponsor or as identified by a third party.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in bold italics.

Matter removed from current law appears [in brackets and struckthrough.]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

AN ACT relative to identification of the source of legislative bill proposals.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 New Section; Legislative Proceedings; Identification of Source of Model Act. Amend RSA 14 by inserting after section 39-a the following new section:

14:39-b Identification of Source of Model Act.

I. When a partnership, firm, nonprofit entity, or corporation formally adopts and distributes model acts to elected officials from more than one state, and that model act is used by a member of the house of representatives or the senate to propose equivalent or substantially similar legislation for introduction in the general court, the office of legislative services shall indicate the responsible partnership, firm, nonprofit entity, or corporation in the bill analysis, provided such information is supplied by the bill's prime sponsor. Members of the general court are directed to provide sufficient information to the office of legislative services for the identification required by this section.

II. Following introduction of the bill, a third party may request that disclosure of the source of a model act be added to the bill analysis as necessary for subsequent passage of the bill by submitting a written request with documentation of the model act to the chairperson of the committee assigned the bill. The chairperson shall issue a ruling within 10 business days of the written request. Decisions of the committee chairperson may be appealed to the rules committee of the house or senate.

III. In this section:

(a) "Model legislation" means a legislative proposal or a uniform or suggested act written, promoted, or distributed by a partnership, firm, nonprofit entity, or corporation to an elected official and to other public officials of at least one more state.

(b) "Formally adopted" means that the partnership, firm, nonprofit entity, or corporation votes to endorse, support, or distribute the model act for legislative adoption.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.