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State lawmakers take on their love-hate relationship with lobbyists

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PHOENIX — Arizona legislators are talking about their love-hate relationship with lobbyists again.

The Senate is considering a bill that would broaden the crime of providing lawmakers with false or misleading information and ratchet up possible jail time and fines.

Livelihoods also would be directly at stake because registered lobbyists would be banned from lobbying the Legislature for three years. Public employees would lose their jobs outright.

It's the second straight year that senators have considered the issue.

A similar bill sponsored by a Democratic senator who said a lobbyist lied to her was heard in committee last year but died when the Republican chairman denied it a vote.

This year's version is sponsored by Republican Senator Ron Gould of Lake Havasu City.

The bill got a 6-0 approval by the same Senate Government Committee.

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