Bill asks that lobbyists register

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI Mention lobbysts, and many people imagine figures skutking among the darkened nooks and cranines of the state capitol, stealthily buttonholing alt-too-human lawmakers and swaying them with a little under-the-table cash and promises of more to come. Michigan State Senator Gary Corbin (D-Clio). who introduced the latest lobby reform bill, said he believes most lobbysts and leefslators are "honorable" men who would rather have that sinister. backroom, influence-by-bribe notion put to rest. He said Senate Bill 674 ces a long way towards destroving the cloak of secrecy which veils Michigan lobbying agents and lobbysts.

SB 674 DOES NOT prohibit lob-bying. It is a disclosure law. It re-quires lobbyists to register and to file quarterly reports of expenditures. The proposed bill prohibits the giving of

gifts, except for token items, to legislators and requires that all food and beverage expenses of more than \$1 be recorded separately, and reported. The bill would also stop the "revolving door" process by preventing, for two years, former legislators from becoming lobbysits to the body on which they once served.

they once served.

Sen. Corbin, who chairs the municipalities and elections committee, said he expected to see some opposition to the bill from lobbies and some legislators, but refused to predict which of his colleagues would try to kill it.

Proponents, most notably Common Cause, a statewide citizens lobby, feel that the bill will be severely slashed when it is referred to the senate judiciary committee.

Sen. Basil Brown (D-Highland Park). chairman of the judiciary com-mittee, said the bill "will get a full and thorough hearing and will be re-ported out in some form." He would

not guarantee all the bill's provisions, however.

While some people had expressed fears of massed special-interst lobby opposition, public forums in Royal Oak and Pontlac heard only testimony supporting the bill.

Through six public hearings the senate municipalities and elections committee has heard from only four lobies, including Common Causes and the Chellian Common Cause has been considered to the common common control of the common common control of the common c

Beyond the rumored payoffs, gifts and junkets, lobbyists are highly valued for the information and technical expertise which they bring to the least-lative arena. Dave Smith. a member of Common Cause, said the real value of lobbyists is their ability to provide "specific expertise" for specific problems.

SB 674 also would authorize the sec-lary state to handle the expenditure

SB 674 also would authorize the sec-etary state to handle the expenditure reports and the attorney general to en-force the prescribed penalties. A lobbyist found guity of giving a legislator a gift of less than \$5,000. a misdemeanor. could be punished by a maximum fine of \$5,000 and be impris-oned for up to 90 days. For a gift of more tham \$3,000. the lobbyist could pay a maximum fine of \$10,000 and be imprisoned for up to three years. The last of the 10 public hearings will be Sept. 14 at the State Law Build-ing in Lansing.

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Lobbying guide available

State Rep. Perry Bullard (D-Ann Arbor) has prepared the second re-vised edition of a "Citizens Guide to Lobbying" for this session of the Mich-

igan legislature.

The booklet is now available and contains information to make it easier for citizens and citizen groups to work for reform in Lansing and Washington.

for reform in Lansing and Washingtion.

Published originally by Bullard as a
guide to the 1957-65 state legislative
session in Dec. 1973-76 state legislative
session in Dec. 1973-76 the new edition
includes advice and suggestions for effective citizen lobbying, as well as
names, addresses, offices, telephone
numbers and pictures of all members
of the House and Senate.

The booklet also shows maps and descriptions of all House and Senate districts: lists the members of House
and Senate standing committees, subcommittees and joint committees, subcommittees and joint committees, subcommittees and joint committees, subcommittees and joint committees, and
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Bullard comments that "There is a great need for an increase in general citizen impact on the decision making process between elec-tions... individual communication on

specific legislative proposals at the ap-propriate time does have an impact. Organized community and citizens' groups can multiply the impact of that individual effort. Organizing citi-zens' groups in your area of concern is extremely important.

"Regular, informed input from such a group can carry weight in a deci-sion-making situation, particularly if it appears that the group or organiza-tion will still be in existence during the next election. The intent of this citizens guide is to provide some of the specific information needed to get in touch with the right people at the right time to make your concerns heard.

Copies the new guide may be ob-claimed from Bullard at Room 303, State Capitol, Lunsing, Mich. 48949.

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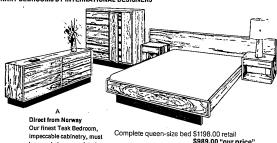
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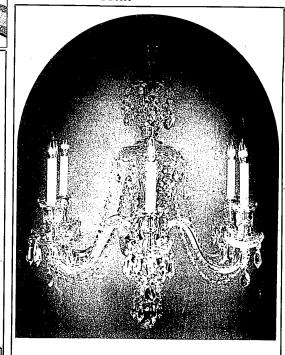
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