

Scope and Methodology of Report

This report on the lobbying expenditures of Minnesota local governments and associations of local governments is prepared in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §6.76. The statute requires that:

"(a) On or before January 31 of each year, all counties, cities, school districts, metropolitan agencies, regional railroad authorities, and the metropolitan council shall report to the state auditor, on forms prescribed by the auditor, their estimated expenditures paid for the previous calendar year to a lobbyist as defined in section 10A.01, subdivision 21, except payments to associations of local governments that are reported under paragraph (b), and to any staff person not registered as a lobbyist, over 25 percent of whose time is spent during the legislative session on legislative matters.

(b) Associations of local governments subject to this section shall report annually, on or before January 31, to the state auditor and the association's members the proportionate amount of each member's dues spent for lobbying purposes."

The Office of the State Auditor (OSA) has collected and published this data for lobbying expenditures made by local governments since 1989. This is the fifth year that associations whose membership includes local governments were required to report their lobbying expenditures to the OSA. Because of the inclusion of local government associations, the data presented in this report are not comparable with reports prior to the 1997 report. This report summarizes local government lobbying expenditures during calendar year 2002 and is intended to inform Minnesota citizens and policy makers of the amount spent by their local governments to attempt to influence public policy in the state.

The reporting forms used to collect information on the expenditures by local governments and their associations for lobbyists and lobbying are presented as appendices in this report. The list of local government associations was developed by reviewing a list of all associations that were registered with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (formerly known as the Ethical Practices Board). While the OSA attempted to identify all associations of local governments and provide them forms to fulfill their reporting requirement, it is the associations' responsibility to comply with the reporting requirement. The lobbying expenditures are the amounts self-reported by local governments and local government associations.