



**THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**6th SESSION OF THE FIFTY-THIRD SENATE
6 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**BILL #5307
Hiring of ASCSU Lobbyist**

NOTICE: *A signature to sponsor means that you only wish for the legislation to be heard, a signature to endorse means that you support the contents and/or actions of this legislation.*

WRITTEN BY: Braxton Dietz, ASCSU Chief of Staff; Evan Welch, ASCSU Deputy Director of Housing Security; Michael Stella, ASCSU Director of Governmental Affairs; Nicholas DeSalvo, ASCSU President

COLLABORATED WITH:

SPONSORED BY: Derek Newberger, ASCSU Co-Director of Graduate Affairs; Ayla Sirois, ASCSU Deputy Chief of Staff; Jorja Whyte, ASCSU Director of Health; Tangia Zheng, Deputy Director of Finance; Faraaz Bukhari, ASCSU Recruitment and Retention Officer

ENDORSED BY: Theo Reese, ASCSU Director of Academics; Isabel Henry, ASCSU Business and Community Liaison; Hayden Deason, ASCSU Director of Environmental Affairs;

ABSTRACT: This bill will ensure funding to enable the strong and prevalent representation of ASCSU and its constituents on the local, county, and state level through a skilled lobbying firm.

WHEREAS

Historically ASCSU has retained a lobbyist to advocate for the organization on the local and state level. Two years ago, the previous contract with the lobbyist was terminated, leaving ASCSU without an advocate at the state capitol; and,

WHEREAS

Hiring a lobbyist is a way for ASCSU to advocate for more state investment in higher education. The state of Colorado has historically lagged behind the rest of the United States in funding higher education, causing tuition costs at Colorado institutions to balloon; and,

WHEREAS

BILL 5220

It is difficult for citizens to follow what happens at the state capitol with hundreds of bills introduced each session. Having a lobbying firm to keep a close eye on relevant legislation will allow us to more effectively advocate for students; and,

WHEREAS

Hiring a lobbyist will give ASCSU more access to elected leaders on the city, county, and state level; and,

WHEREAS

Lobbying services are expensive, and because of their connection to the university along with their willingness to advance the interests of ASCSU, Bowditch and Cassell Public Affairs have offered their expertise for a significantly discounted rate; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED

That \$10,000 be moved from the ASCSU Senate Discretionary Fund into the Department of Governmental Affairs; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That \$2,000 be moved from the Office of the President Discretionary Fund into the Department of Governmental Affairs; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That \$2,000 be earmarked from the Department of Governmental Affairs budget to be used as a contribution to the lobbyist contract; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That a total of \$14,000 will be reserved for the fiscal year 2024 payment of lobbying services to Bowditch and Cassell Public Affairs, housed under the Department of Governmental Affairs.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

This funding allocation shall expire June 30th 2024, the end of fiscal year 2024. If the funds are not used as designated above, they will be reallocated to the fund balance.

**PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF RESOLUTION/BILL/LEX 52XX
SESSION OF PASSAGE**

Yays-Nays-Abstentions

19/0/3

SENATE PASSAGE

9/27/2023

ASCSU PRESIDENT NICHOLAS DESALVO

Nicholas DeSalvo

DATE

9/28/23

THAT THIS LEGISLATION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO

Amy Parsons, President of Colorado State University

Tony Frank, Chancellor of the CSU System

Blanche Hughes, CSU Vice President for Student Affairs

Henry Sobanet, CSU System Chief Financial Officer, Senior Vice Chancellor for Administration and Governmental Relations

Jen Johnson, Executive Director of SLiCE

Desirae McCutchen, ASCSU Accountant

ARCHIVE INFO [Parliamentarian Use Only]

INTRODUCTION DATE/SESSION: 9/11/2023

ARCHIVE DATE:

COMMITTEE'S REVIEWED: Budgetary, DEI and University

MONETARY? Y