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Spring Creek Lodge among top spending Montana lobbyists

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from Associated Press

HELENA -- Spring Creek Lodge, a residential facility for juveniles affiliated with the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools, was listed as being among the top spending lobbyists in Montana during the 90-day 2005 legislative session. The Legislature only meets once every two years.

The spending report was complied by the state's political practices office.

In all, 411 special-interest groups and state and local governments spent $4.78 million to try to influence legislation. That is the equivalent of about $31,900 per lawmaker.

The total spending is nearly 47 percent more than the $3.2 million spent in the 2003 Legislature. Lobbyists spent $3.1 million during the 2001 session and $3.5 million in the 1999 Legislature.

Spring Creek Lodge spent $56,677 during the 90-day period, successfully defeating legislation which would have required therapeutic boarding schools to be licensed and regulated by the state.

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