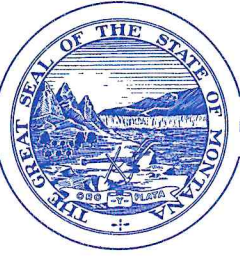


COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES



STATE OF MONTANA

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Lobbying '101'

1) Lobbying terms

- **Lobbying:** The act of promoting or opposing legislation, or the act of promoting or opposing official action by a legislator or legislators.
- **Lobbyist:** A person engaging in the practice of lobbying.
 - Public officials, elected local officials, elected Federal officials, and elected Tribal officials would be exempted *IF* acting in their official governmental capacity.
 - State employees who engage in lobbying activity as part of their employment duties are *NOT* exempted.
- **Principal:** A person or entity who employs a lobbyist.

2) Lobbying forms

- **L-1 Lobbyist License Application:** Form L-1, the Lobbyist License Application, must be filed by any lobbyist paid \$3,000.00 or more to lobby.
- **L-2 Principal Authorization Statement:** Form L-2, the Principal Authorization Statement, must be filed by any Principal that pays \$3,000.00 or more to one or more individual lobbyists.
- **L-3 Principal Registration Application:** Form L-3, the Principal Registration Application, must be filed by any Principal that pays \$3,000.00 or more in total for lobbying but does not pay that amount to any single lobbyist.
- **L-5 Lobbying Finance Report:** Form L-5, the Lobbying Finance Report, must be filed by all registered Principals. Form L-5 discloses all lobbying payments made by the Principal during a given time period.

- A lobbyist may sign and submit an L-5 Lobbying Finance Report on behalf of a Principal they are authorized to represent.
- L-5 Lobbying Finance reports are due on February 15, (mandatory), March 15, (if \$5,000.00 or more spent on lobbying in the month of February), April 15 (if \$5,000.00 or more spent on lobbying in the month of March), May 15 (if \$5,000.00 or more spent on lobbying in the month of April), and 30 days after adjournment (mandatory). The full reporting calendar is available on the COPP website.

3) I am a lobbyist. How do I register?

- Lobbyist licenses are valid for two (2) years. Relating to Montana's 2025 Legislative Session, licenses would be valid starting January 1, 2025 and expire on December 31, 2026.
- **Step 1:** the lobbyist files their L-1 Lobbyist License Application with the COPP naming the Principal they will be lobbying on behalf of.
- **Step 2:** the Principal files an L-2 Principal Authorization Statement authorizing the lobbyist to lobby on their behalf.
- **Step 3:** the \$150 lobbyist registration fee is paid to COPP (this fee can be paid by either the lobbyist or the Principal).
 - The \$150.00 lobbyist registration fee only needs to be paid once, regardless of the number of Principals a lobbyist is authorized to lobby on behalf of.
- If any of these three (3) steps are not taken, the lobbyist cannot be issued a license.
- Lobbying forms may be filed hard copy (as paper forms completed and submitted to COPP) or electronically, via the Principal and Lobbyist Online Registration System (PLORS).