

Lobbying '101'

1) List of lobbying terms

- **Lobbying:** The act of promoting or opposing legislation, or the act of promoting or opposing official action by a public official or legislator.
- **Lobbyist:** A person engaging in the practice of lobbying. Lobbyists who are paid \$2,650.00 or more to lobby must register with the COPP. Individuals who are not paid to lobby or are not paid \$2,650.00 or more to lobby do not need to register with the COPP.
 - +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 are NOT exempted- they must register as a lobbyist if paid \$2,650.00 or more to lobby.
- **Principal:** A person or entity who employs a lobbyist. Principals must register and file finance reports with the COPP if paying lobbyist/s \$2,650.00 or more. Persons or entities who employ lobbyist/s but do not reach \$2,650.00 in lobbying payments would not be required to register with the COPP.
- **Public Official:** An elected state official or an appointed state official acting in official capacity for state government.

2) List of lobbying forms

- **L-1:** Lobbyist License Application. Must be filed by any lobbyist paid \$2,650.00 or more to lobby.
- **L-2:** Principal Authorization Statement. Must be filed by any Principal that pays \$2,650.00 or more to an individual lobbyist.
- **L-3:** Principal Registration Application. Must be filed by any Principal that pays \$2,650.00 or more for lobbying but does not meet/exceed that amount to any single lobbyist.
- **L-5:** Lobbying Finance Report. Must be filed by registered Principals to disclose their lobbying payments.

3) Who must file L-5 finance reports? And when?

- Principals are required to file L-5 reports disclosing lobbying expenditures; lobbyists themselves are not required to file finance reports.
- A lobbyist may sign and submit an L-5 Lobbying Finance Report on behalf of a Principal they are authorized to represent.
- The L-5 reporting calendar is available to Principals on the COPP's website. The first required L-5 reporting date is February 15, 2021.

4) Miscellaneous

- Lobbyist licenses are valid for two (2) years- for the 2021 Legislative Session, licenses would be valid from January 1, 2021 and expire on December 31, 2022.
- For a lobbyist to receive a lobbyist license there are three steps. Step 1: the lobbyist files their L-1 Lobbyist License Application with the COPP. Step 2: the Principal files an L-2 Principal Authorization Statement authorizing that lobbyist to lobby on their behalf. Step three: the \$150 lobbyist registration fee is paid (can be paid by either the lobbyist or the Principal). If any of these three (3) requirements are not met, the lobbyist cannot be issued a license.
- While lobbying forms may be filed hard copy (unlike campaign finance, there is no electronic filing requirement associated with lobbying), the COPP strongly encourages lobbyists and Principals to utilize the electronic reporting system.
- A lobbyist can be authorized to lobby on behalf of more than one Principal at a time. The lobbyist would need to list all Principals they are employed by on the L-1.
- Similarly, a Principal can authorize more than one lobbyist to lobby on its behalf at a time. The Principal would need to file an L-2 for each lobbyist it will pay \$2,650.00 or more to. If no single lobbyist will be paid \$2,650.00 but the Principal meets or exceeds that amount in the aggregate via payments made to multiple lobbyists, the Principal would need to file the L-3 Principal Registration Application.

- A lobbyist does **NOT** have to pay the \$150.00 registration fee each time they add a Principal to their registration. A lobbyist must only pay the \$150.00 fee once to complete their registration.