



NEWS RELEASE

Respond to:
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(609) 292-8700

CONTACT: FREDERICK M. HERRMANN, Ph.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR RELEASE:

March 3, 2003

PRESS ADVISORY

Executive Director Frederick M. Herrmann announced today that the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission is proposing an amendment to its rules concerning lobbyists and legislative agents to clarify that, under certain conditions, the cost of a meal provided to an invited speaker at an event sponsored by a lobbying entity is not required to be reported as benefit passing. New rules are also proposed concerning the opportunity for a hearing and default proceedings in complaints brought pursuant to the Legislative Activities Disclosure Act and the Gubernatorial Legislative Disclosure Statement Act.

Dr. Herrmann stated that the Commission is further proposing a new rule which requires county political party committees and their organizational treasurers to file an annual report identifying the municipal political party committees in their county. This report will provide the Commission with information to enable it to contact the 1,132 municipal political party committees.

New rules and amendments to the regulations are also being proposed, Herrmann explained, to articulate standards for imposition of penalties for many of the different types of offenses that arise from the reporting requirements of the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act. He stated that the proposed rules and amendments reflect the Commission's policy of encouraging filing and compliance by imposing maximum penalties for non-filing violations and lesser penalties for late reporting violations. The proposed penalty rules further set forth aggravating and mitigating circumstances that the Commission will consider in its penalty determination in each case.

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The proposed amendments and new rules will appear in the New Jersey Register on March 3, 2003. Copies of Commission's proposals may be viewed on the Commission's website at www.elec.state.nj.us or may be obtained by calling the Commission at (609) 292-8700.

The Commission will conduct a public hearing to elicit public comment concerning the proposal on Monday, April 14, 2003, at 11:00 a.m. at:

Election Law Enforcement Commission
Edward J. Farrell Memorial Conference Room
28 West State Street, 12th Floor
Trenton, New Jersey

The Commission invites participation in this hearing and requests that any testimony be limited to no more than ten minutes. Please contact Elbia Zepetelli by Friday, April 11, 2003, at (609) 292-8700 to reserve time to speak.

The Commission welcomes written comments concerning the proposed amendments and new rules. Submit written comments by May 2, 2003, to:

Michelle R. Levy, Assistant Legal Director
Election Law Enforcement Commission
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