
PRESS ADVISORY - January 20, 2005

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission is proposing amendments to its regulations and new rules to implement recently-enacted legislation that made significant changes to the scope and reporting of lobbying activity.

Among the changes are the following: including "governmental processes" as reportable lobbying activity; changing the term "legislative agent" to "governmental affairs agent"; prohibiting contingent fee lobbying; prohibiting lobbying by the Governor, legislators, and heads of principal departments in the Executive Branch for one year after leaving office; prohibiting gifts of more than \$250 per year from a lobbyist or governmental affairs agent to a legislator or legislative staff or to an officer or staff member of the Executive Branch; requiring reporting of "grassroots" lobbying activity; requiring random audits of the records of governmental affairs agents; and, imposing additional fees upon governmental affairs agents.

The proposed amendments appeared in the New Jersey Register on January 18, 2005, and are currently available on the Commission's website at www.elec.state.nj.us. Copies of the Commission's proposals may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (609) 292-8700.

The Commission will conduct two hearings to elicit public comment concerning the proposals on **Tuesday, February 15, 2005 at 11:15 a.m. and Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at 11:15 a.m.** at: Mary G. Roebling Building, Second Floor Conference Room, 20 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey.

Persons planning to attend either hearing are requested to bring identification in order to be admitted to the Mary G. Roebling Building.

The Commission invites participation in these hearings and requests that any testimony be limited to no more than ten minutes. Persons wishing to testify at the **February 15, 2005** hearing are requested to reserve time to speak by contacting Administrative Assistant Elbia L. Zeppetelli at (609) 292-8700 no later than Friday, February 11, 2005.

Persons wishing to testify at the **March 15, 2005** hearing are requested to reserve time to speak by contacting Administrative Assistant Elbia L. Zeppetelli at (609) 292-8700 no later than Friday, March 11, 2005.

Submit written comments by March 19, 2005, to: Michelle R. Levy, Assistant Legal Director, Election Law Enforcement Commission, P. O. Box 185, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0185.
