



## NEWS RELEASE

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New Jersey lobbyists in April will be able for the first time to file their quarterly reports electronically.

In anticipation, the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) is planning a series of training sessions for lobbyists, also called governmental affairs agents, and their staffs, said Executive Director Jeff Brindle.

Training seminars will be held at 10 am on February 24, March 8<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup>. Those wishing to attend one of the sessions should register online at [www.elec.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us). Amended regulations that apply to quarterly filings also are available on the website.

Those with questions should call 609-292-8700 or 1-888-313-3532 (toll-free within NJ).

ELEC enabled lobbyists to file their annual reports electronically beginning in 2011.

“Once lobbyists begin filing their quarterly reports via the Internet in April, it will mean all reporting by lobbyists is being done electronically,” said Brindle. Quarterly reports list lobbying activity involving legislation and executive branch activities such as permits, regulations and fines.

Brindle said the move to full electronic filing by lobbyists is one of the improvements funded with a special \$2 million appropriation included in the fiscal year 2015 state budget.

Some of the funds previously have been used to upgrade the outdated computer network and programs underlying the agency’s operations. The changes have made the system more secure and reliable.

A more noticeable improvement will be an overhaul of the agency’s award-winning website, also scheduled in April.

In 2017, the appropriation will enable the agency to move to full electronic filing by candidates, parties and political action committees.

“I want to thank our staff for their hard work in turning the special appropriation into improvements that not only will benefit filers and the public, but make our agency viable for years to come,” said Brindle. “I also want to thank Governor Christie and legislators from both parties for making this possible.”

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