



NEWS RELEASE

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Quarterly reports filed by New Jersey lobbyists and information they contain can now be easily searched online, it was announced today by Jeff Brindle, Executive Director of the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission.

“This is just the latest step our agency has taken to fulfill our central mission of public disclosure,” said Brindle. “With the advent of the computer age, ELEC gradually has evolved from a warehouse of paper documents to an electronic library rich in campaign finance and lobbying information.”

The improvements were made possible through a state appropriation approved with bipartisan support in the 2015 state budget.

Lobbyists first began filing paper copies of annual and quarterly reports with ELEC in January, 1992. Since ELEC’s website (www.elec.state.nj.us) first became active in 1997, the agency has been moving toward the day when all lobbying reports are filed and displayed electronically, said Brindle.

“We finally have reached that point,” he said.

ELEC has posted summaries of information in annual lobbying reports online since 1998. Annual reports contain information such as client names and fees, salaries, spending on communications and appointed positions held by lobbyists. Starting in 2011, lobbyists have been able to file their annual reports electronically and those reports are easy to view online.

Also in 2011, ELEC began scanning quarterly lobbying reports into large electronic files that could be searched online. “Until now, people were not able to look up individual reports filed by lobbyists,” Brindle said.

New Jersey lobbyists in April of this year began filing their quarterly reports electronically. Quarterly reports list lobbying activity involving legislation and executive branch activities such as permits, regulations and fines. A revamped section of the website also enables members of the public to search information contained in these reports.

“ELEC is joining a handful of states, including Ohio, Rhode Island and Washington, that let people look up information about the activities of lobbyists,” said Brindle.

“This change wouldn’t have been possible without the hard work of our information technology and compliance staffs as well as efforts of other ELEC workers. I also want to thank lobbyists and their staff members who provided personal feedback that made the e-filing process even better,” said Brindle.

Located at: 28 W. State Street, 13th Floor, Trenton, New Jersey • www.elec.state.nj.us

Some funds from the special appropriation already have made the agency's operations more secure and reliable by replacing outdated computer hardware and software that underpin the agency's operations.

Another improvement will be an overhaul of the agency's award-winning website. Originally slated for April, it is now set for September.

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

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