



# 2025 Lobbying Disclosure Annual Report

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# Introduction

It is the Department of State's pleasure to provide the 2025 Lobbying Disclosure Annual Report. In 2025, we began the registration period for 2025-26.

The Department continues to work closely with the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission to ensure compliance with Quarterly Expense Reporting requirements and to assist the people of the Commonwealth with their questions relating to lobbying disclosure in Pennsylvania.

The Department continues to focus on outreach efforts by sending quarterly newsletters to filers informing them of upcoming deadlines, important updates to the system, and frequently asked questions. Along with quarterly newsletters, autodials and email reminder notices are sent to all principal registrations prior to the Quarterly Expense Report deadlines. We continue to offer trainings for any functionality in our system and have training videos available on our [website](#).

Filers continue to use the added functionality of submitting their Equity Reports through the existing system. This was a major improvement in the last two years for both filers and the Department and was a great success.

The Department looks forward to continuing our service to the people of the Commonwealth and Pennsylvania's lobbying community.

# Summary of Act 134 of 2006

[Act 134 of 2006](#) amends Title 65 (relating to public officers) providing for regulation and disclosure of lobbying activity.

The act establishes the authority of the legislature to regulate persons employed to influence the actions of the General Assembly and the Executive Department in a “fair and equitable manner.” It expressly states that membership in a regulated profession shall not excuse a lobbyist from compliance. The act defines lobbying as “an effort to influence legislative action or administrative action” and includes direct or indirect communication, office expenses, and providing any gift, hospitality, transportation, or lodging to a state official or employee for the purpose of advancing the interest of a lobbyist or principal.

## The act defines “administrative action” to include an agency’s:

- proposal, consideration, promulgation, or rescission of a regulation;
- development or modification of a statement of policy;
- approval or rejection of a regulation;
- procurement of supplies, services, and construction under 62 Pa C.S. (relating to procurement);
- review, revision, approval, or disapproval of a regulation under the Regulatory Review Act;
- the Governor’s approval or veto of legislation;
- the nomination or appointment of an individual as an officer or employee of the Commonwealth;
- proposal, consideration, promulgation, or rescission of an executive order.

## The act defines “legislative action” to include an action taken by a state official or employee involving the preparation, research, drafting, introduction, consideration, modification, amendment, approval, passage, enactment, tabling, postponement, defeat, or rejection of:

- legislation;
- legislative motions;
- a veto by the Governor;
- confirmation of appointments by the Governor;
- appointments to public boards or commissions by a member of the General Assembly.

# Registrations

Unless exempt under [65 Pa.C.S. § 13A06](#), lobbyists, lobbying firms, and principals must register biennially with the Department. The most common exemptions from registration include:

- §13A06(4): “an individual whose economic consideration for lobbying, from all principals presented, does not exceed ‘\$2,500’ [Effective January 1, 2017, the threshold increased to \$3,000] in the aggregate during any reporting period” and
- §13A06(5): “an individual who engages in lobbying on behalf of the individual’s employer if the lobbying represents less than 20 hours during any reporting period.”

With the enactment of [Act 2 of 2018](#), registration must be done electronically using the Department’s computerized filing system. The fee to register is \$300 and must be received within five days of filing the registration statement. This registration statement must be filed within 10 days of acting in any capacity as a lobbyist, lobbying firm, or principal. See the definition of “engaging in lobbying” in the regulations at 51 Pa. Code § 51.1. A full list of registration exemptions can be found at [65 Pa.C.S. §13A06](#).

The registration portal is available at [www.palobbyingservices.pa.gov](http://www.palobbyingservices.pa.gov). Lobbyists who register must also supply a photo within five days of filing a registration statement.

Registrants may pay the registration fee online with a credit card via the website or may pay by check. To pay by check, registrants must print a remittance form that is pre-populated with their information and mail it and their registration fee.

**585 new  
registrations  
for 2025**

**384  
Principals**

**182  
Lobbyists**

**19  
Lobbying Firms**

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**3,643 total  
registrations  
for 2025**

**2,255  
Principals**

**1,242  
Lobbyists**

**146  
Lobbying Firms**

# Registration Renewals

A lobbyist, lobbying firm, or principal must renew their registration with the Department at the beginning of each new biennial registration period, unless exempt under §13A06 of [Act 134 of 2006](#).

Previous lobbying registrations expire 10 business days after the beginning of the new registration period. A registration renewal must be filed within 10 days of acting in any capacity as a lobbyist, lobbying firm, or principal. See the definition of “engaging in lobbying” in the regulations at 51 PA. Code § 51.1.

Registration renewal must include a \$300 registration fee received within five days of filing the registration renewal online. At the time of renewal, registrants are responsible for reviewing their current registration record for any updates or changes that should be made to ensure accurate disclosure. Registrants have the option of paying their renewal fee by credit card.

Registrants should use their existing registration record to complete their renewal. Some registrants erroneously create new registration records when attempting to renew their registration, which creates gaps in the continuity of registration information and problems in accurately assessing non-compliance issues.

To continue using an existing registration, registrants should select “Renew” beside their expired registration status and provide their registration number.

All registrations that are not renewed by January 1 of the new registration period automatically change to a status of “expired.” If a registrant is not actively lobbying at the time, they may choose to wait until they are no longer exempt to renew their registration.

A registration with a status of “expired” does not prevent the registrant from amending any previously submitted quarterly expense reports.



# Expired Filers

Lobbying registrations expired Jan. 1, 2025. All registrations that were not renewed maintain a status of “expired.”

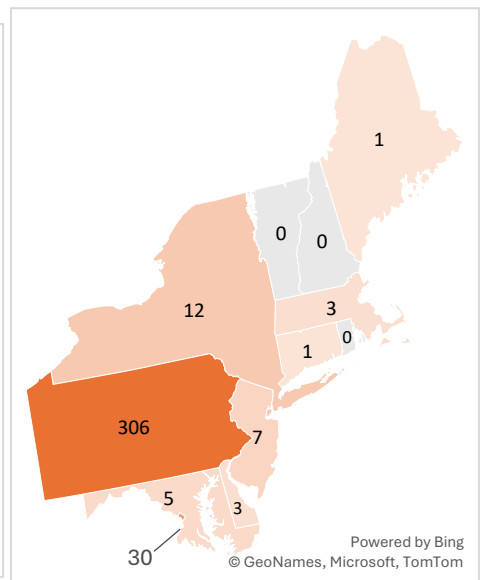
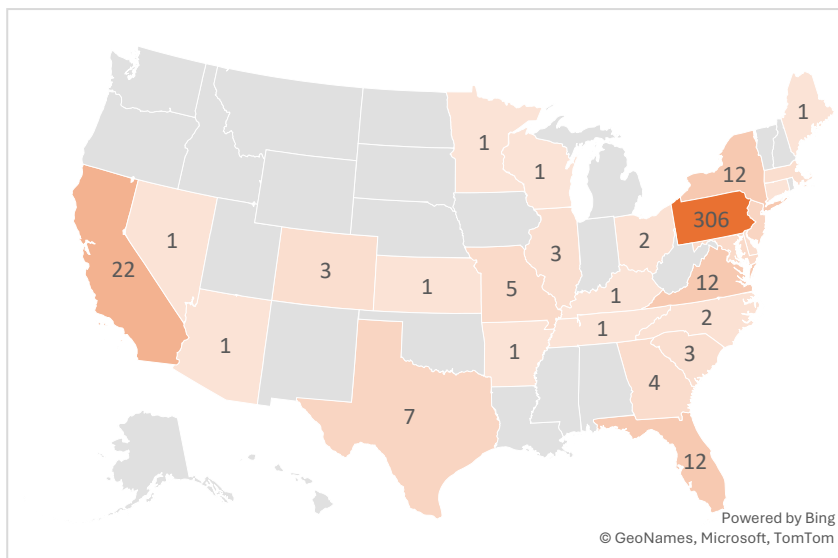
If a registrant is not actively lobbying at the time, they may choose to wait until they are no longer exempt to renew their registration. A registration with a status of “expired” does not prevent the registrant from amending any previously submitted quarterly expense reports.

Once a registration has expired, it may only be transferred by a staff member at the Department.

A majority of registrants renewed their registrations with the Department at the beginning of the biennial registration period.

In 2025, there were a total of **178 lobbyists**, **20 lobbying firms**, and **255 principals** in an expired status with the Department. Of those, 306 expired filers were in Pennsylvania.

## Expired By State





# Expense Reporting

[Section 13A05 \(a\)](#) of Act 134 of 2006 requires a registered principal to file quarterly expense reports. If a lobbyist or lobbying firm reports all expenses to and through their respective principals, then the lobbyist or lobbying firm is not required to file expense reports.

Under certain circumstances, a lobbying firm or lobbyist may be required to submit a quarterly expense report. According to §13A05(b)(6) of Act 134, a lobbying firm or lobbyist not associated with a firm shall submit an expense report if lobbying expenses were not contained in any expense report filed by a represented principal.

A lobbying firm or lobbyist may attach a statement to the report filed by a represented principal describing the limits of the lobbyist's or lobbying firm's knowledge concerning the expenditures contained in the principal's report.

With the enactment of [Act 2 of 2018](#), principals, lobbying firms, and lobbyists who are required to file expense reports must do so electronically using the Department's computerized filing system.

# Equity Reports 2024-25

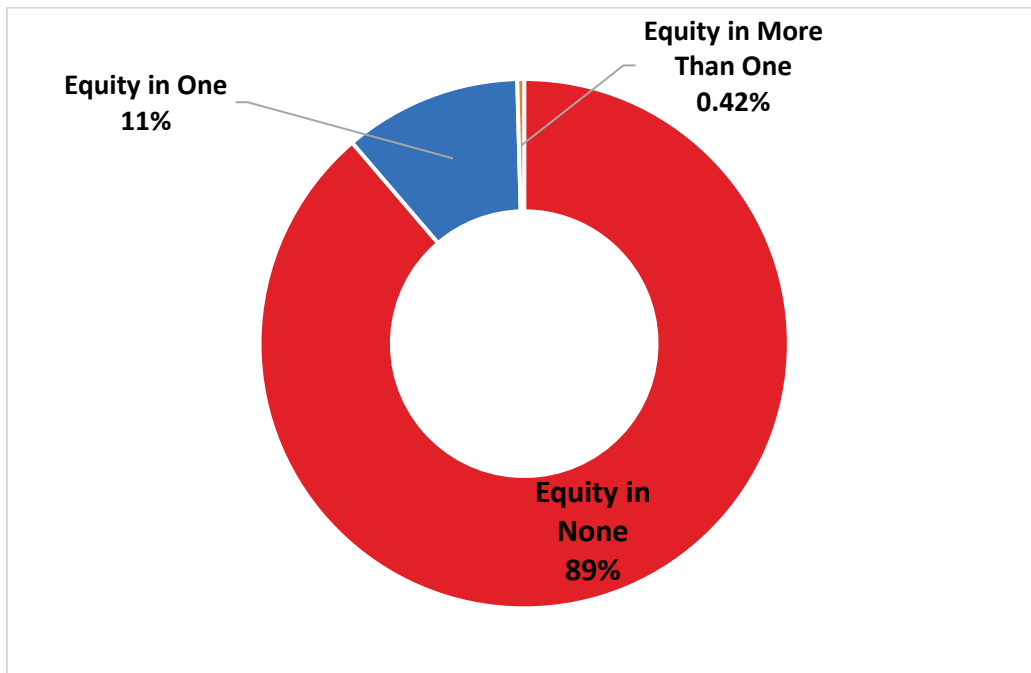
[Act 70 of 2021](#) introduced Equity Reports. Each lobbyist and lobbying firm registered with the Department was required to complete an Equity Report by July 30, 2025. The most recent reporting period was July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. If any lobbying firm or lobbyist was registered within the reporting period, an equity report was due.



Equity Reports disclose how much equity a lobbyist or lobbying firm holds or has held in an affiliated principal for whom that lobbyist or lobbying firm lobbied during the reporting period. Equity means any interest or ownership. The term “interest or ownership” includes but is not limited to:

- any interest in any shares (however designated, whether voting or nonvoting);
- membership interests (however designated, whether voting or nonvoting);
- partnership interests (whether general or limited); and
- any other interest that confers the right to receive a share of the profits and losses of, or distributions of property of, any partnership or business.

The Department was able to add functionality to our current system that allows users to submit their Equity Reports in the same location as their registration and expense reports. Equity Reports are published [on their own page on the Department's website](#).



# Top 10 General Subjects of Lobbying 2024-25

The totals listed below include costs associated with direct and indirect communication, as well as gifts, hospitality, transportation, and lodging.

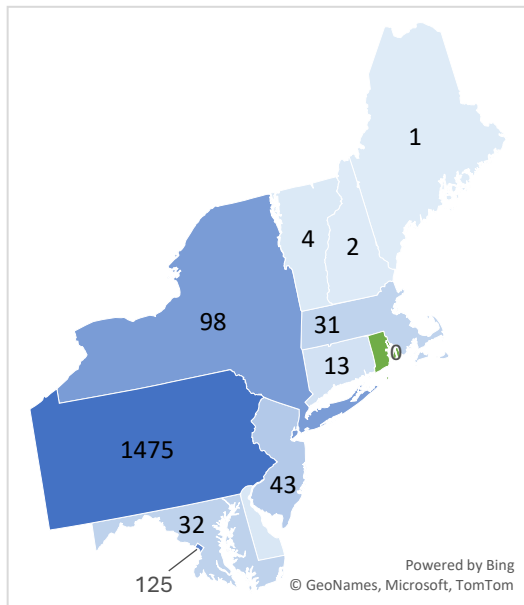
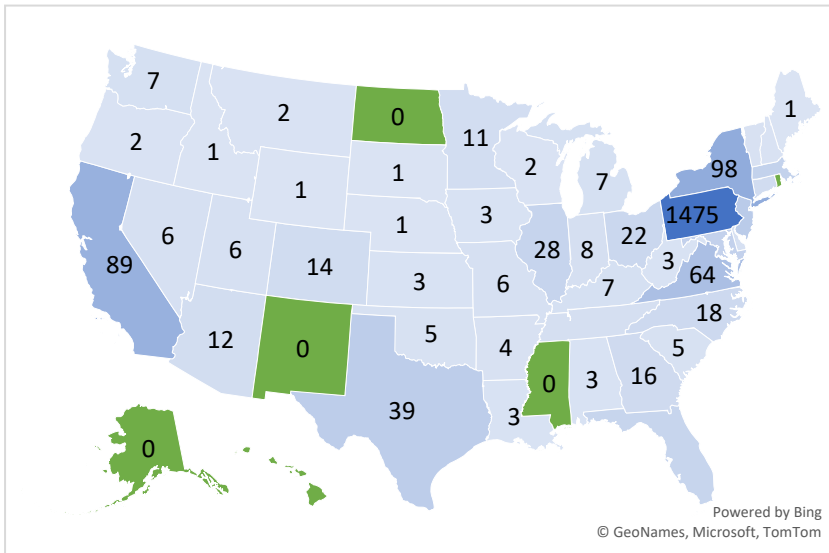


# Allocated Lobbying Cost Categories

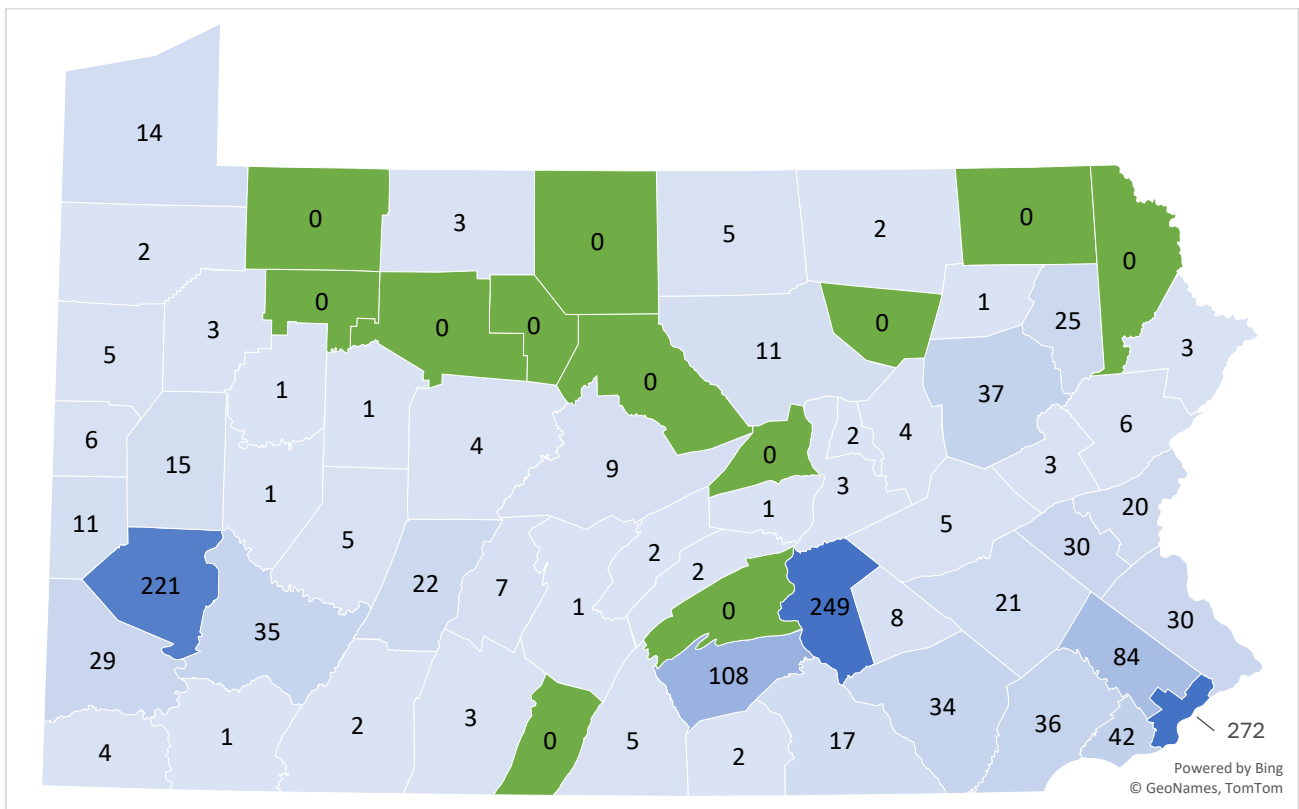
<b>Allocation categories</b>	<b>Money allocated</b>
<b>Total Expenditure Costs*</b>	\$1,688,765
<b>Total Direct Communication Costs</b>	\$111,749,625
<b>Total Indirect Communication Costs</b>	\$36,653,121
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$150,091,511</b>

*\*Total expenditure costs category includes gifts, hospitality, transportation, and lodging for state officials or employees or their immediate families*

# Principal Registration by State



# Principal Registration by County



# Lobbying Disclosure Audits

The Department holds an audit lottery within 60 days of the close of the 4th quarter. The Department randomly selects 3% from each category of registrants: lobbyists, lobbying firms, and principals.

The Department sends notification letters to all selected registrants, informing them of the auditing procedures. The Department then provides all registration and reporting records to an independent auditor.

The auditors contact the registrants directly to request any records deemed necessary to complete the audit. Based on their review of the records, the independent auditors draft a report to the Department and registrants. At that time, the registrants are invited to respond to the findings. The auditors then issue a final report to the registrants and the Department. When required, the Department acts as an intermediary between the auditors and the registrants throughout the auditing process.

In 2025, the Department selected 114 registrants to be audited by Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC. All audit reports remain confidential, except when requested by the State Ethics Commission as part of an investigation into an alleged violation. As such, the audits are a part of the enforcement mechanism under Act 134 of 2006.

# Online Services

The Department launched [its current lobbying services website](#) in 2013. The website provides valuable information to registrants, the public, and the Department. Registrants and other public site users can use a search engine that allows them to find and view all registrations and expense reports that have been filed with the Department.

The online filing system provides a search feature that can search by the registration number, the first or last name of a lobbyist, the name of a firm or principal, or even the letter P, F, or L entered into the registration number field to see all registered principals, firms, or lobbyists. The Department's website provides instructions on how to register and file reports, amendments, and terminations.

The website provides the option to view and print the Department's [Lobbying Directory](#), which lists all registered lobbyists and firms with accompanying photos and contact information. Individuals can also access printable versions of [Act 134 of 2006](#), the [final regulations](#), and the [Manual for Accounting and Reporting Deadlines](#) through the [Department of State's website](#).

The lobbying services website requires registrants to create a username and password through [Keystone Login](#). Once created, the user can log in and will be able to file online. A username and password are not required to search records.

The online system allows users to manage their registration(s) and file their expense reports at any time prior to filing deadlines. Access is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This allows users to view the status of their registration and reports and determine whether the Department is in receipt of their filings.

The Department provides an [advanced search function](#) that includes affiliated political action committees, affirmations, gifts, reports, and subjects of lobbying.

# Enforcement

With regard to enforcement of the registration and reporting requirements, the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) follows a process which is outlined in Section 13A09 of the Lobbying Disclosure Law whereby the Commission will issue a “Notice of Alleged Noncompliance” to a person (“non-filer”) who has failed to register or report as required.

For negligent violations, the Commission may impose an administrative penalty. Effective April 16, 2018, the administrative penalty is \$50 a day for the first 10 days late; \$100 a day between 10 and 20 days late; and \$200 a day after the first 20 days late.

During calendar year 2025, the Commission levied penalties totaling \$110,650 for late/deficient lobbying Registration Statements and/or Quarterly Expense Reports.

The Commission may also prohibit a non-filer from lobbying for economic consideration for up to five years if the non-filer fails to comply after notice of non-compliance and a hearing, if requested.

With regard to enforcement of the “prohibited activities” section of the Lobbying Disclosure Law, Section 13A07, the Commission has authority to receive complaints, conduct investigations, hold hearings, and impose administrative penalties as to: (1) lobbying “conflicts of interest” as described in subsection (d); and (2) 10 categories of “unlawful acts” listed in subsection (f).

For violations of these particular types of “prohibited activities,” the Commission has authority to impose financial penalties and to prohibit a lobbyist from lobbying for economic consideration for up to five years.

For all other prohibited activities detailed in Section 13A07 of the Lobbying Disclosure Law, the Commission may initiate investigations through the Executive Director and hold hearings pursuant to the Commission’s general authority under Section 13A08(g). However, the only penalty the Commission may impose for these types of violations is prohibition against lobbying for economic consideration for up to five years in the event of an intentional violation.<sup>1</sup>

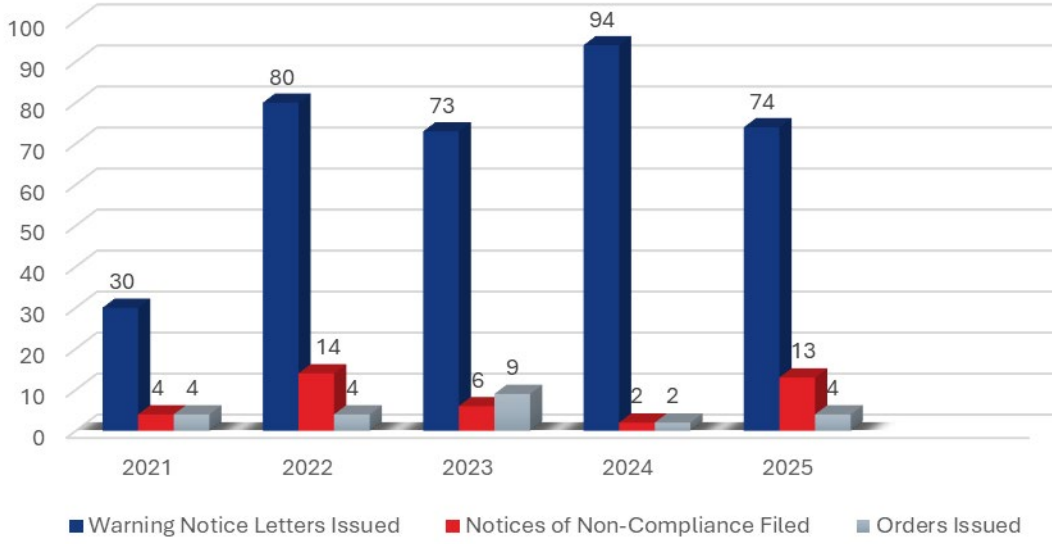
If the Commission has reason to believe that an intentional violation of the Lobbying Disclosure Law has been committed, the Commission must also refer all relevant information to the Office of Attorney General and, if the lobbyist or principal is an attorney, to the Disciplinary Board.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Section 13A09(e)(4) of the Lobbying Disclosure Law

<sup>2</sup> See Section 13A09(h) of the Lobbying Disclosure Law

### Lobbying Enforcement 2021-2025



### Administrative Penalties Ordered 2021-2025



# Administration

Responsibility for administration and enforcement of Act 134 of 2006 is assigned to three state agencies and the Disciplinary Board of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as follows:

- The Pennsylvania Department of State is responsible for overseeing registration, quarterly expense reporting, and audits.
- The Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission is responsible for administrative enforcement of the Act and for giving advice and opinions related to the act.
- The Pennsylvania Attorney General is responsible for criminal enforcement of the act.
- The Disciplinary Board of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court is responsible for administrative enforcement of the act as it pertains to attorneys.

# Contact Information

## **Department of State Office of Campaign Finance and Lobbying Disclosure**

500 North Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-5280 option 5  
[ra-lobbydisclosure@pa.gov](mailto:ra-lobbydisclosure@pa.gov)

## **Department of State Office of Communications and Press**

[ra-st-press@pa.gov](mailto:ra-st-press@pa.gov)

## **Department of State Office of Legislative Affairs**

717-787-6458

## **Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission**

717-783-1610  
[www.ethics.pa.gov](http://www.ethics.pa.gov)

## **Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General**

717-787-3391  
<https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/>

