

AN ACT

RELATING TO LOBBYISTS; AUTHORIZING THE ELECTRONIC  
AUTHORIZATION OF ELECTRONICALLY FILED LOBBYIST REPORTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 2-11-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977,  
Chapter 261, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

"2-11-6. EXPENDITURE REPORT TO BE FILED--CONTENTS--  
REPORTING PERIODS.--

A. Each lobbyist or lobbyist's employer who makes  
or incurs expenditures or political contributions for the  
benefit of or in opposition to a state legislator or candidate  
for the state legislature, a state public officer or candidate  
for state public office, a board or commission member or state  
employee who is involved in an official action affecting the  
lobbyist's employer or in support of or in opposition to a  
ballot issue or pending legislation or official action shall  
file an expenditure report with the secretary of state on a  
prescribed form or in an electronic format approved by the  
secretary of state. The expenditure report shall include a  
sworn statement that sets forth:

(1) the cumulative total of the expenditures  
made or incurred, separated into categories that identify the  
total separate amounts spent on:

(a) meals and beverages;

(b) other entertainment expenditures;

(c) gifts; and

(d) other expenditures;

(2) each political contribution made, identified by amount, date and name of the candidate or ballot issue supported or opposed; and

(3) the names, addresses and occupations of other contributors and the amounts of their separate political contributions if the lobbyist or lobbyist's employer delivers directly or indirectly separate contributions from those contributors in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate for each election to a candidate, a campaign committee or anyone authorized by a candidate to receive funds on the candidate's behalf.

B. If the expenditure report is filed electronically, the report shall be electronically authenticated by the lobbyist or the lobbyist's employer using an electronic signature as prescribed by the secretary of state in conformance with the Electronic Authentication of Documents Act and the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act. For the purposes of the Lobbyist Regulation Act, a report that is electronically authenticated in accordance with the provisions of this subsection shall be deemed to have been subscribed and sworn to by the lobbyist or the lobbyist's employer that is required to file the report.

C. In identifying expenditures pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph (1) of Subsection A of this section, any individual expenditure that is more than the threshold level established in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, that must be reported separately to claim a business expense deduction, as published by the secretary of state, shall be identified by amount, date, purpose, type of expenditure and name of the person who received or was benefited by the expenditure; provided, in the case of special events, including parties, dinners, athletic events, entertainment and other functions, to which all members of the legislature, to which all members of either house or any legislative committee or to which all members of a board or commission are invited, expenses need not be allocated to each individual who attended, but the date, location, name of the body invited and total expenses incurred shall be reported.

D. The reports required pursuant to the provisions of the Lobbyist Regulation Act shall be filed:

(1) by January 15 for all expenditures and political contributions made or incurred during the preceding year and not previously reported;

(2) within forty-eight hours for each separate expenditure made or incurred during a legislative session that was for five hundred dollars (\$500) or more; and

(3) by May 1 for all expenditures and

political contributions made or incurred through April 25 of the current year and not previously reported.

E. A lobbyist's personal living expenses and the expenses incidental to establishing and maintaining an office in connection with lobbying activities or compensation paid to a lobbyist by a lobbyist's employer need not be reported.

F. A lobbyist or lobbyist's employer shall obtain and preserve all records, accounts, bills, receipts, books, papers and documents necessary to substantiate the financial statements required to be made under the Lobbyist Regulation Act for a period of two years from the date of filing of the report containing such items. When the lobbyist is required under the terms of the lobbyist's employment to turn over any such records to the lobbyist's employer, responsibility for the preservation of them as required by this section and the filing of reports required by this section shall rest with the employer. Such records shall be made available to the secretary of state or attorney general upon written request.

G. Any lobbyist's employer who also engages in lobbying shall comply with the provisions of the Lobbyist Regulation Act.

H. An organization of two or more persons, including an individual who holds himself out as an organization, that within one calendar year expends funds in excess of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) not

otherwise reported under the Lobbyist Regulation Act to conduct an advertising campaign for the purpose of lobbying shall register with the secretary of state within forty-eight hours after expending two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500). Such registration shall indicate the name of the organization and the names, addresses and occupations of any of its principals, organizers or officers and shall include the name of any lobbyist or lobbyist's employer who is a member of the organization. Within fifteen days after a legislative session, the organization shall report the contributions, pledges to contribute, expenditures and commitments to expend for the advertising campaign for the purpose of lobbying, including the names, addresses and occupations of the contributors, to the secretary of state on a prescribed form."

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