



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 1348 Printer's No. 2260

Prime Sponsor: Representative Cutler
Committee: State Government

SYNOPSIS:

Amends Title 65 (Public Officers) to increase penalties that may be imposed on lobbyist or principals for violations of the law.

SUMMARY:

Title 65 (relating to lobbying disclosure) to:

1. Increase the maximum administrative penalty that may be imposed by the Ethics Commission when it has been determined that a lobbyist or principal has committed an unlawful act under the law.
 - The bill will increase the maximum fine to \$2,000 from \$4,000.
 - An unlawful act includes, but is not limited to: knowingly advising a person to violate the lobbying disclosure law, as well as other state/federal laws; refusing to identify a principal; attempting to influence a state official by providing a loan to the official or providing campaign contributions to an official who is a candidate; instigating introduction of legislation for the purpose of obtaining employment to lobby in opposition to the legislation; counseling a person to engage in fraudulent conduct; and influencing a state official by extortion, coercion or bribery.
2. Increase the maximum administrative penalty that may be imposed for negligent failure to report under the lobbying disclosure law from \$50 per late day to:
 - \$50 per late day for the first 10 days;
 - \$100 per late day after the first 10 late days; and
 - \$200 per late day after the first 20 late days.
3. Require the Department of State (DOS) to:
 - post all filings on its publicly accessible website within seven days of receipt; and
 - issue electronic receipts to registrants who file documents electronically.

Effective Date: Immediately.

AMENDMENT 10535

Requires lobbyists and lobbying firms to register and file reports electronically through the computerized system developed by the DOS. Additionally, the legislation requires the Department to post on its publicly accessible Internet website all filings it receives within seven days.

Effective Date: A portion of the bill takes effect January 1, 2017. The remainder of this act shall take effect immediately.

BILL HISTORY:

Referred to Senate State Government, October 9, 2015

Prepared by: Dando 10/17/2016