

REMINDER – NO LOBBYIST \$\$ DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The State Elections Enforcement Commission reminds all concerned individuals of the ban on campaign contributions and the solicitation of such contributions by registered lobbyists and their affiliated political action committees (PACs) to General Assembly and statewide candidates and their affiliated political committees during the legislative session. Note that these prohibitions apply to both “client lobbyists” and “communicator lobbyists” and their affiliated political committees.

There are two different sets of provisions that apply to registered lobbyists: (1) a temporary “sessional” contribution and solicitation ban while the General Assembly is in session that applies to all individuals or entities that are registered with the Office of State Ethics as either a “**client lobbyist**” or a “**communicator lobbyist**” and political committees established by or on behalf of such lobbyists and (2) a permanent (year round) set of restrictions that applies to all individuals or entities registered as a “communicator lobbyist,” their immediate family members and political committees established or controlled by communicator lobbyists or members of their immediate family. Specifically, communicator lobbyists are subject to a year round \$100 contribution limit to candidates for General Assembly and statewide office, political committees established or controlled by such candidates, legislative leadership and caucus committees, and party committees. In addition, communicator lobbyists are prohibited from bundling¹ contributions for such covered committees. Finally, communicator lobbyists may not knowingly solicit contributions for such covered committees from individuals who serve on the board of directors of, are partners of, are employed by, or have a 5 percent or more ownership interest in any client lobbyist they represent. The Office of State Ethics maintains a list of all client lobbyists and communicator lobbyists.

The sessional ban begins from the time the General Assembly convenes in regular session on January 9, 2013 and continues until adjournment sine die on June 5, 2013. Candidates for (1) Statewide office, (2) General Assembly and (3) political committees that were established (a) for an assembly or senatorial district, (b) by an elected statewide official, a member of the General Assembly or their agent, or (c) in consultation with or at the request or suggestion of any such official, member or their agent, or controlled by such official, member or agent, are prohibited from receiving lobbyist contributions or benefiting from lobbyist solicitations during the session. *See* General Statutes § 1-91 (l), (u) and (v), for the definition of “lobbyist,” “client lobbyist” and “communicator lobbyist” and General Statutes § 9-610 (e), (g), (h) and (i), for the application of the lobbyist provisions.

The State Elections Enforcement Commission has provided to the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of

¹ The statute defines “bundle” as forwarding five or more contributions to a single committee by a communicator lobbyist, lobbyist’s agent or immediate family member or raising contributions for such a committee at a fundraising affair hosted or sponsored by such lobbyist, lobbyist’s agent or immediate family member.

the Senate, the minority leader of the House of Representatives and each statewide officer, a copy of its updated list of “*Political Committees Established by or On Behalf of a Lobbyist*” as well as an updated “*Prohibited Recipients List: Political Committees Prohibited from Receiving Lobbyist Contributions.*” Copies of these lists are available to each legislator from these leaders as well as by accessing the Commission’s website located at www.ct.gov/seec. Any questions concerning application of the lobbyist contribution bans or any other provision of the State’s campaign financing laws should be directed to the Commission at 860-256-2940, or toll free outside of the Hartford local calling area at: 1-866-733-2463.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr.
Senate President Pro Tempore

Rep. Brendan Sharkey
Speaker of the House

Senator John McKinney
Senate Minority Leader

Rep. Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr.
House Republican Leader