

## **Act No. 161 (S.86). Elections; lobbyists**

### **An act relating to miscellaneous changes to election laws and to lobbyist reporting**

This act makes miscellaneous changes to election laws set forth in Title 17 and redefines the type of information required to be reported by lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers.

The act amends election laws that include the following issues:

- Offenses against the purity of elections;
- Revisions of voter checklists and voter registration;
- Political party organization, including organization eligibility for a major party's State committee;
- Nominations, including the date of the primary election and filing deadlines;
- Standardized ballots and vote tabulators, including the requirement to use vote tabulators in certain towns;
- Polling places;
- Early or absentee voters, including requirements to conform with federal law;
- The count and return of votes, including election night reporting;
- Recounts, including the requirement that recounts be conducted using vote tabulators;
- Local elections; and
- Warning requirements.

Regarding lobbyist reporting, the act reorganizes lobbyist reporting statutes so that certain contractual agreements and direct business relationships with legislators or administrators or their spouses or dependents are still reported, but are not automatically considered on the reporting form to be a lobbying expenditure.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 28, 2014