

Act No. 49 (S.93). Legislature; lobbying; disclosures; advertisements; prohibited conduct; campaign finance

An act relating to lobbying disclosures

This act requires the identification in an advertisement of any lobbyist, lobbying firm, or lobbyist employer that paid for the advertisement if it is made to influence legislative action and is made prior to final adjournment of a biennial or adjourned legislative session. It also requires an informational report to the Secretary of State within 48-hours if a lobbyist, lobbying firm, or lobbyist employer made an expenditure for such an advertisement or advertising campaign that has a cost totaling \$1,000.00 or more.

“Advertisement” is defined to mean a notice that appears in any of the following public media: radio, television, newspapers or other periodicals, or Internet websites.

“Advertising campaign” is defined to mean advertisements substantially similar in nature, regardless of the media in which they are placed.

The act also increases the frequency of standard lobbying reports; revises what must be included in such reports; and requires all lobbying disclosures to be filed online in the Secretary of State’s searchable database.

Finally, the act prohibits a lobbyist, lobbying firm, or lobbyist employer from making a contribution while the General Assembly is in session, until adjournment sine die, to a legislative leadership political committee.

Effective Date: July 1, 2015