

## Proposal 2: CONFORMING CHANGES TO THE LOBBYING ACT RELATED TO TRAINING



### THE ISSUE

***Presently, the Lobbying Act does not reflect the new training requirement for clients directed in the Ethics Commission Reform Act.***

The Ethics Commission Reform Act of 2022 directed the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government to develop and administer a training course for lobbyists and clients of lobbyists, which imposed a training requirement on clients for the first time. Presently, the Lobbying Act requires lobbyists to take an online ethics course, developed and administered by the Commission, once every three years. Notably, however, the training requirement imposed on clients by ECRA is not reflected in the Lobbying Act.

To effectuate ECRA's new requirement, the Commission developed and launched a new online ethics training course for both lobbyists and clients in January 2023. At the same time, the Commission amended existing lobbying regulations implementing the training requirement on lobbyists to include clients. Pursuant to these regulations, the training requirement is triggered by a lobbyist or client being listed on a Statement of Registration, which by law must be filed on a biennial basis.

### THE PROPOSAL

***Amend the Lobbying Act to reflect the client training requirement and require training for lobbyists and clients every two years.***

This proposal would conform the Lobbying Act with ECRA's provision requiring clients to take ethics training. It would also amend the Lobbying Act to require clients to take the training once every two years to coincide with the biennial timeline associated with Statements of Registration. The current three-year requirement is not ideal given that Statements of Registration must be filed every two years.

The proposal would amend Section 1-d(h) of the Lobbying Act to conform to Section 94(8) of the Executive Law by expressly adding clients to the mandatory ethics training requirements set forth in the Lobbying Act.

In addition, to correspond with biennial filing requirements, the proposal would amend the requirement in Section 1-d(h) for lobbyists (and, as proposed, clients) to complete the online ethics training course from once every three years to once every two years to coincide with the biennial registration cycle.

*Please note, draft bill language is available upon request.*

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