

State Law Resources

Illinois: Lobbying or Not: Common Scenarios

Factual Background	Lobbying or Not?
You communicate with a legislator's staff member in order to secure an amendment to a pending bill on behalf of a client for compensation.	Lobbying , as this is an effort to influence legislative action.
You communicate with an assistant to the Governor and ask for a pending regulation to be modified on behalf of a client for compensation.	Lobbying , Illinois defines lobbying to include administrative action.
You communicate with a contact at Department of Education and inquire about the status of a grant on behalf of a client.	Not lobbying , provided that the inquiry does not include a request for official action, such as expediting or processing the grant application.
You communicate with a policy-making official on the Public Utilities Commission asking them to encourage the legislature to adopt an amendment to a utility bill.	Lobbying , as communication with certain policy making officials within the executive branch in an effort to influence legislative action is considered lobbying.
An organization circulates an email or posts a tweet to the general public urging people to contact their legislator to vote "No" on a particular bill.	Not lobbying , as communications to the general public delivered via email or social media do not constitute lobbying unless the communication is with the state official.
An organization circulates a mailer to the general public urging people to contact their legislator to vote "No" on a particular bill.	Not lobbying , as communications to the general public delivered do not constitute lobbying unless the communication is with the state official.

NOTE: With each advocacy communication, an organization must determine whether the communication constitutes lobbying for Illinois disclosure purposes but also whether the communication constitutes lobbying for IRS 990 purposes.

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