

VIRGINIA LOBBYING OR NOT: COMMON SCENARIOS

FACTUAL BACKGROUND	LOBBYING OR NOT?
You communicate with a legislator's staff in order to secure an amendment to a pending bill on behalf of a client or employer for compensation.	Lobbying, as this is a communication with a legislative official 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 or employer for compensation.	Lobbying, as this is a communication with an executive official to influence executive action.
You visit the capitol to talk to legislators about a pending bill at a lobby day sponsored by an association you belong to.	Lobbying, but registration and reporting not required so long as you receive \$500 or less in compensation (if any), excluding expenses, in a calendar year.
You communicate with a contact at the Department of Health to request information about complying with a particular law on behalf of a client or employer.	Not lobbying, as requesting information from an agency regarding compliance with a law is not attempting to influence executive or legislative action.
A consultant is paid to create a mailer that is circulated to the general public urging people to contact their legislator to vote "No" on a particular bill.	Lobbying, as a person who represents or is compensated by an organization for the purpose of soliciting others to influence a legislator is considered a lobbyist engaged in lobbying.
An organization circulates a mailer to the general public urging voters to vote "No" on a question on the ballot.	Not lobbying, as lobbying includes soliciting others to influence an executive or legislative official, not a ballot question.
An association sends an email alert to its members urging them to attend a rally to defeat pending legislation.	Not lobbying, as lobbying does not include communications between an association and its members.

NOTE: With each advocacy communication, an organization must determine not only whether the communication constitutes lobbying for Virginia registration and disclosure purposes but also whether the communication constitutes lobbying for IRS 990 purposes.

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