

How To View Lobbying Disclosure Reports on the Secretary of State's Website

Follow these steps to look at the reports filed by a lobbyist or the principal (lobbyist's client) in North Carolina.

STEP 1: Go directly to: www.secretary.state.nc.us/lobbyists/

OR go to the Secretary of State's home page at: <http://www.sosnc.com>
and then scroll down and click on
Lobbyist Compliance Division

STEP 2: In the left hand section, under "Lobbyist Compliance Division," choose "Search for a Lobbyist" or "Search for a Principal." Principals are the lobbyists' clients. You can also get a list of "Legislative Liaison" – staff members of state government agencies that lobby on behalf of their agency.

STEP 3: Choose the legislative session (TERM) of interest to you – or leave the option as "All." Then type in just ONE key word in the name of the lobbyist or principal you want to research.

STEP 4: This will bring up options with that name. Choose the one you want and click.

STEP 5: After clicking on a specific name, you get options for terms, lobbyists, and principals. Click on the Yellow Icon that corresponds to the combination you want. (If you are on the screen for a lobbyist, you can click on a principal's name in the list to look up other lobbyists for that principal and to look up the principal's disclosure reports.) If there is no Yellow Icon, then no reports are available on-line. You'll have to get them from the Secretary of State's office. The lobbyist and the principal each file disclosure reports.

STEP 6: The Yellow Icon takes you to a screen with options for disclosure reports. **Prior to Jan. 2007**, there are 4 reports in the biennium term of the General Assembly, i.e., 2 reports per year. The lobbyist and the principal each file disclosure reports. One report was due filed 60 days after the session ends for that year, and the other covered the rest of the year. **After Jan. 2007**, there are quarterly reports, with monthly reporting during the session if expenditures are made for the benefit of, or on behalf of, a covered state public official. Click on the Icon for the report you want. Sometimes information on the lobbyist's report is repeated on the principal's report, so don't double count these items. The compensation paid lobbyists is only on the principal's report, at the very end.

There are also Registration and Authorization forms for each lobbyist and lobbyist's principal, which give information about what general topics the lobbyist will work on, name and address of contact people, and date when lobbying begins.

For questions, call the Secretary of State at 919-807-2000 and ask for the Lobbyist Compliance Division or call direct, 919-807-2170.

Prepared by Democracy North Carolina, July 2008