

June, 2010

The NewsPAGR

Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations

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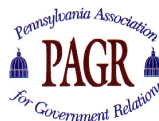
COMING IN THE FALL:



**Lobbypalooza
2010**

Want to help plan this popular event? Contact Christine at the PAGR office.

MISSION STATEMENT



The mission statement of the Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations, Inc. (PAGR) is to promote the purpose and effectiveness of the lobbying profession consistent with the public interest. Further, association members encourage high standards of personal and professional conduct among all lobbyists. ☺

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Peter Calcara



They're Back!

Our friends at the Department of State are back with their plan to increase the biennial registration filing fee for lobbyists, principals and lobbying firms from \$100 to \$200. If approved, the fee increase will go into effect on January 1, 2011.

As you may recall, the Department published its proposed fee increase in the October 17, 2009, *Pennsylvania Bulletin*—a full 139 days after the statutorily-mandated date of June 1, 2009. The Lobbying Disclosure Law (Act 134 of 2006) states unambiguously that the Department shall publish the adjusted registration fee amounts in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* by June 1, 2009, and by June 1 every two years thereafter as necessary.

“Our friends at the Department of State are back with their plan to increase the biennial registration filing fee for lobbyists...”

PAGR urged the Department to withdraw the proposed rulemaking. IRRC seemingly agreed with PAGR, but offered the Department the opportunity to further clarify its interpretation and explain how the fee increase is consistent with Act 134.

In the final-form regulation, the Department explained that by publishing the regulations on October 17, 2009, the Department is providing the regulated community with ample notice to adjust to the increased fee far in

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*by Peter Calcara*

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advance of the January 1, 2011 effective date.

PAGR maintains its position that the next legally permissible time the Department can publish a fee increase is on or before June 1, 2011, in order to for the fee to be applied to the biennial registration period beginning January 1, 2013.

Stay tuned. PAGR has submitted formal comments to IRRRC and will be providing testimony at the June 3rd IRRRC public hearing. All PAGR members are more than welcome to attend the hearing.

In other legislative news, PAGR is supporting House Bill 2162, campaign finance reform legislation sponsored by Rep. Babette Josephs (D-Phila.), which was reported out of the House State Government Committee on April 20, 2010.

The bill would impose contribution limits for individuals, political party committees and political action committees as follows:

from an individual to a:

candidate for General Assembly, court of common pleas, county or local office -- \$2,000 per election

statewide candidate -- \$5,000 per election

political action committee -- \$5,000 per calendar year

political party committee -- \$20,000 per election

no individual would be able to contribute more than \$25,000 per election.

from a political action or candidate's committee to a:

candidate for General Assembly, court of common pleas, county or local office -- \$2,000 per election

statewide candidate -- \$10,000 per election

political action committee -- \$5,000 per calendar year

political party committee -- \$20,000 per election

from a political party committee to a:

candidate for General Assembly, court of common pleas, county or local -- \$5,000 per election

statewide candidate -- \$100,000 per election

political action committee -- \$20,000 per election

It is unclear if or when the full House will take this bill up for consideration.

PAGR is also actively monitoring Rep. Bryan Cutler's House Bill 1434, which increases the penalties for lobbyists, lobbying firms and principals who fail to properly register or report in accordance with Act 134. The measure would increase the maximum administrative penalty that may be imposed by the State Ethics Commission for violations from \$2,000 to \$10,000 and the maximum lobbying prohibition from five to 10 years. In cases of negligent failure to register or report, the penalty would jump from \$50 per day to \$250 per day. The legislation also upgrades the offense of intentionally failing to register or report, or for filing a false report, from a second-degree misdemeanor to a first-degree misdemeanor.

The bill unanimously passed the House on April 20, 2010 and has been referred to the Senate State Government Committee. It is uncertain if and when the Senate State Government will be considering this bill.

If you have questions or comments regarding action PAGR is taking on these matters, I would like to know. Feel free to contact me directly at pcalcara@picpa.org. Your thoughts and opinions are important to me and the members of YOUR PAGR Board. ☺

Meeting Notice

Monday June 7, 2010

11:30 am—12:30 pm

Firehouse Restaurant

Third Floor

606 N. 2nd Street • Harrisburg

Our guest will be:

Rep. Frank Dermody,

House Majority Whip



ALL MEMBERS ARE FREE!

ALL GUESTS OF MEMBERS WILL BE CHARGED \$25

PLEASE RSVP BY June 4 TO 717-540-4391 OR INFO@PAGR.ORG.

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR....

FALL

LOBBYPALOOZA 2010

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

11:30 AM—12:30 PM

FIREHOUSE RESTAURANT, HARRISBURG

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

ELECTION RESULTS PARTY

8 PM—11 PM

FIREHOUSE RESTAURANT, HARRISBURG

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

4:00 PM—6 PM

MCGRATH'S PUB, HARRISBURG