



THE 131ST OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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2015 Ohio Lobbying Statistics Report

Released March 15, 2016

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Introduction

The Office of the Legislative Inspector General

Each year the Office of the Legislative Inspector General ("OLIG") publishes a report of the previous year's lobbying statistics. The OLIG is a non-partisan legislative office with two primary functions: (1) it administers Ohio's lobbying laws, and (2) is the administrative office of the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee ("JLEC")—a bipartisan legislative committee comprised of twelve members of the general assembly.

Relative to lobbying, a majority of OLIG resources are dedicated to working with Ohio's more than 1,500 lobbyists to ensure a transparent, accurate, and lawful lobbying process.

An Overview of Ohio's Lobbying Laws

To assist in comprehending the following report, below is a brief overview of Ohio's lobbying laws. Detailed information regarding these laws and the overall regulation of lobbying may be found in the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*—available for download at www.ohiolobbying.com.

Lobbyists, Employers, & Engagements

In Ohio, a lobbyist is a person who is *compensated* to actively advocate the interests of another before Ohio's legislative and executive branches, or one of the state's retirement systems. A person or entity who compensates a lobbyist to advocate on its behalf is referred to as an employer. The relationship between an employer and a lobbyist is called an engagement.

Based on the subject matter a lobbyist is attempting to influence, Ohio law categorizes engagements as either: legislative engagements, executive engagements, or retirement system engagements. For example, a lobbyist attempting to influence legislation—regardless of with whom they are communicating—is a legislative agent (*i.e.* legislative lobbyist). Each type of engagement is subject to different regulations.

Engagement types are not exclusive; lobbyists are often both a legislative and executive lobbyist for a single employer (and thus have multiple engagements with that employer). Lobbyists may have engagements with multiple employers, just as employers may have engagements with multiple lobbyists.

Registrations, Reports, & Reporting Periods

Each engagement must be registered with the OLIG. Thereafter, lobbyists and employers must periodically report details about the lobbying activity and any expenditures associated with the engagement. This information is submitted by filing an Activity & Expenditure Report (AER).

Each calendar year consists of three reporting periods: *January-April*, *May-August*, and *September-December*. Following each, lobbyists and employers must both submit AER's to the OLIG.

Ohio Lobbying Activity Center

All registrations and AER's are submitted electronically through the Ohio Lobbying Activity Center ("OLAC")—a website designed and maintained by the OLIG. In turn, OLAC serves as a database that allows the public to view, search, and compile this information in real time.

2015 Ohio Lobbying Statistics Report

The following report is published by the OLIG pursuant to Ohio law;¹ it is compiled with OLAC data as of March 11, 2016.

I. 2015 Lobbying Registration and Engagement Data

In Ohio, a lobbyist is a person who is compensated to actively advocate the interests of another. The person or entity compensating the lobbyist is referred to as an employer. The relationship between a lobbyist and employer is termed an engagement.

A lobbyist may have multiple engagements with multiple employers, just as an employer may have multiple engagements with multiple lobbyists. For example: Jane Lobbyist may have a legislative engagement, an executive engagement, and a retirement engagement with both ABC Employer and XYZ Employer (6 engagements between 3 registered parties).

The below numbers of *Lobbyists* and *Employers* represent the actual number of those registered to lobby in Ohio. *Total Engagements* reflect the number of relationships between these registered lobbyists and employers (not the combined number of the two).

A. Total Registrations.

	Jan-Apr	May-Aug	Sep-Dec
Lobbyists	1573	1578	1554
Employers	1764	1827	1822

B. Out-Of-State Registrations.

	Jan-Apr	May-Aug	Sep-Dec
Lobbyists	170	166	155
Employers	453	469	468

C. Legislative Registrations & Engagements.

Legislative Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	1529
Employers	1656
Total Engagements	4212

D. Executive Registrations & Engagements.

Executive Registrations & Engagements

¹ R.C. 101.72(H), 121.62(H), 101.92(H).

Lobbyists	1053
Employers	1624
Total Engagements	3765

i. Executive Statewide Offices.

Statewide Office	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Governor	1003	1504	3573
Lieutenant Governor	783	1019	2334
Attorney General	816	1048	2317
Auditor of State	604	732	1528
Secretary of State	579	688	1401
Treasurer of State	550	700	1400

ii. Executive Agencies.

Executive Agency	Lobbyists	Employers	Total Engagements
Budget & Management	586	611	1311
Health	525	487	1108
Taxation	481	479	1071
Commerce	470	487	1011
Job & Family Services	488	443	943
Administrative Services	421	465	880
Insurance	446	358	804
Environmental Protection Agency	416	356	792
Transportation	430	401	789
Education	407	382	706

(Represents the 10 most lobbied agencies, based on total engagements.)

E. Retirement System Registrations & Engagements.

Retirement System Registrations & Engagements	
Lobbyists	93
Employers	51
Total Engagements	99

Registrations By Retirement System			
Retirement System	Lobbyist	Employer	Total Engagements
State Teachers Retirement System	82	44	88
School Employees Retirement System	77	40	83
Public Employees Retirement System	77	45	83

Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund	64	33	69
Highway Patrol Retirement System	57	28	62

II. 2015 Legislative Lobbying Activity Data

House Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity	
HB 64 Main Operating Budget	977
HB 53 Transportation and Public Safety Budget	146
HB 394 Unemployment Compensation Revise Law	109
HB 157 Health Care Laws Revise	101
HB 340 Local Government	79
HB 4 Naloxone – Furnish or Dispense	57
HB 2 Community School	56
HB 1 Workforce Grant Program	55
HB 216 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses -Revise	55
HB 56 Public Employment	54

Senate Bills With Most Reported Lobbying Activity	
SB 129 Insurers – Prior Authorization Requirements	94
SB 3 Schools - Exempt	52
SB 141 Pharmacists - Consult Agreements	49
SB 1 Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program	49
SB 5 First Responders - Diagnosed with PTSD	47
SB 208 Income Tax	46
SB 148 Community Schools	45
SB 110 Nurse Authorized to Prescribe - Delegation	43
SB 243 Step Therapy Protocols	42
SB 9 Data Collection - Services for Reducing	41

(Determined by the number of employers that reported lobbying on a bill in 2015; employers who reported lobbying on a bill during multiple reporting periods are counted once.)

III. 2015 Lobbying Expenditure Data

Under Ohio's lobbying laws, an expenditure is anything of value (*e.g.* gifts, awards, meals and beverages, entertainment, ticketed events, lodging, and transportation) provided by a lobbyist or employer for the benefit of a reportable person.² Campaign contributions (made pursuant to

² See R.C. 101.70(D), 121.60(B), 101.90(B), 101.73(B), 121.63(B), 101.93(B); see also the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*, Ch. 4 (expenditures, generally), and pg. 42 (who qualifies as a reportable person).

R.C. Chapter 3517) and compensation paid to a lobbyist are not considered lobbying expenditures and neither are reported to the OLIG.³

A. Expenditures: Total By Reporting Period

	Jan-Apr	May-Aug	Sept-Dec	Total
Legislative Lobbyists	\$40,916.68	\$46,685.65	\$27,916.37	\$115,518.70
Legislative Employers	\$312,050.88	\$144,144.12	\$66,155.93	\$522,350.93
Executive Lobbyists	\$2,288.39	\$475.54	\$669.08	\$3,433.01
Executive Employers	\$662.41	\$2,021.13	\$174.01	\$2,857.55
Retirement Lobbyists	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Retirement Employers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$355,918.36	\$193,326.44	\$94,915.39	\$644,160.19

B. Expenditures: By Engagement Type

Total Expenditures By Engagement Type	
All Legislative Expenditures	\$637,869.63
All Executive Expenditures	\$6,290.56
All Retirement Expenditures	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2014	\$644,160.19

C. Expenditures: Lobbyist vs. Employer

Lobbyist vs. Employer Expenditures	
All Lobbyist Expenditures	\$118,951.71
All Employer Expenditures	\$525,208.48
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2014	\$644,160.19

D. Expenditures: By Source (Ten Highest)

Expenditures By Source (Ten Highest)	
Wholesale Beer and Wine Association of Ohio	\$39,508.68
Ohio Chamber of Commerce	\$26,107.30
Ohio Association of REALTORS	\$15,313.40
Inter-University Council of Ohio (IUC)	\$13,941.03
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies	\$13,196.00
Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association	\$12,602.10
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council	\$11,601.95

³ See R.C.101.76(C), 121.66(B), 101.96(B); campaign contributions are reported to the Ohio Secretary of State via campaign finance reports, available at: www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/CampaignFinance/Search.aspx

Voices for Ohio's Children	\$11,113.95
Ohio Bankers League	\$10,828.65
Ohio Municipal Electric Association	\$9,723.67
TOTAL	\$163,936.73

(Includes both lobbyist and employer expenditures reported for the named entity.)

E. Expenditures: By Category

2015 Expenditures By Category	
Gifts	\$30,295.84
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$4,915.39
All-Invited Events	\$523,589.49
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$85,359.47
TOTAL	\$644,160.19

For reporting purposes, all lobbying expenditures fall under one of the following categories:⁴

1. **Gift Expenditures:** Anything of value, excluding a meal or beverage, provided for the benefit of a reportable person that exceeds \$25.
2. **Itemized Meal & Beverage Expenditures:** A meal or beverage provided by an employer for the benefit of a reportable person; or a meal or beverage provided by a lobbyist to a reportable person that, when aggregated with all other meals or beverages provided by the lobbyist to that reportable person, exceeds \$50.
3. **All-Invited Event Expenditures:** The total cost of meals and beverages provided to reportable persons at an event to which all members of the general assembly or all members of either chamber are invited.
4. **Non-Itemized Meal & Beverage Expenditures:** (a) those provided by a lobbyist to a reportable person that, when aggregated with all other meals and beverages provided by the lobbyist to that reportable person, does not exceed \$50; (b) those provided by a lobbyist to certain reportable persons who are participating in a panel, seminar, or speaking engagement; (c) those provided to certain reportable persons while attending a national conference of an organization to which any state agency pays membership dues.

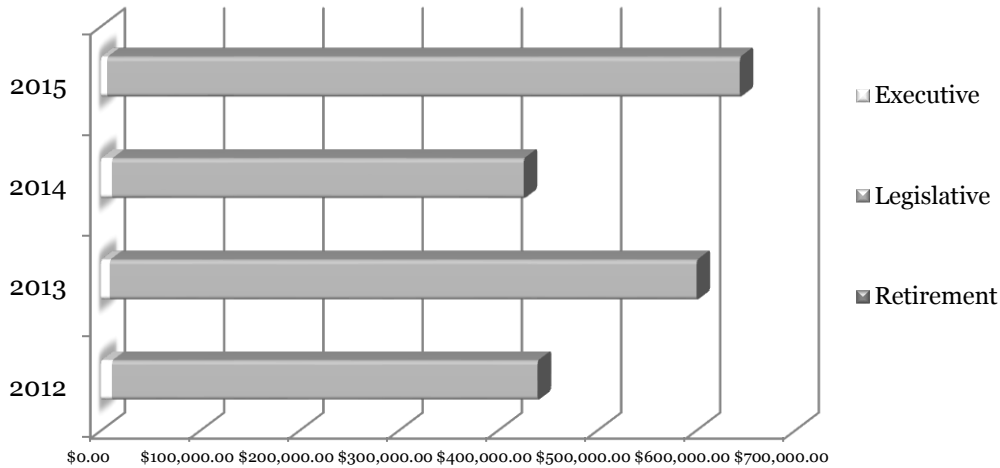
IV. 2015 Lobbying Expenditures Compared To Previous Years⁵

⁴ For detailed information regarding expenditure categories and reporting, see the *Ohio Lobbying Handbook*, Ch. 4-6. Gift and itemized expenditures require disclosure of the recipient as well as the amount spent, non-itemized and all-invited event expenditures require disclosure of aggregate amount spent.

⁵ OLAC generates data in real time. As lobbyists and employers amend reports from time to time, expenditure figures reflecting previous years may vary from prior reports, as originally published. All figures for this report were generated March 11, 2016.

A. Total Overall Expenditures By Engagement Type 2012 - 2015.

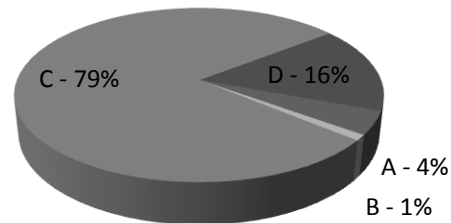
	2012	2013	2014	2015
Executive	\$11,166.03	\$8,922.50	\$11,185.19	\$6,290.56
Legislative	\$428,679.57	\$591,349.36	\$414,797.53	\$637,869.63
Retirement	\$146.61	\$10.72	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$439,992.21	\$600,282.58	\$425,928.72	\$644,160.19



B. Total Overall Expenditures By Category 2012-2015.

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Gifts	\$20,726.86	\$24,122.14	\$17,044.15	\$30,295.84
Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$6,177.05	\$5,805.27	\$5,155.71	\$4,915.39
All-Invited Events	\$326,418.37	\$486,449.58	\$322,120.46	\$523,589.49
Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages	\$86,669.93	\$83,905.59	\$81,662.40	\$85,359.47
Total	\$439,992.21	\$600,282.58	\$425,982.72	\$644,160.19

- A - Gifts
- B - Itemized Meals & Beverages
- C - All-Invited Events
- D - Non-Itemized Meals & Beverages



V. **2015 Compliance Data**

The following represents the number of lobbyists and employers who, as of March 11, 2016, have outstanding Activity & Expenditure Reports due to the OLIG. Knowingly failing to file an AER is a fourth degree misdemeanor. Those with outstanding reports have been notified by email and certified letter.

Filers Remaining Non-Compliant	
Lobbyists	4
Employers	16