



Implementation of New Mexico's New Lobbying Disclosure Law

All of the following fall within the Secretary of State's existing authority to implement the 2015 HB 155 Lobbyist Regulation Act, which amends the current statute.

#1 Searchable, Sortable and Accessible

Registrations and expenditure reports should be made available on the website in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable format.

The new law calls for searchable and sortable information to be accessible to the public. This includes the ability by the user to sort by each of the following fields currently available on the SOS website:

- First name
- Last name
- Employer name
- Candidate/ elected officials' expenditure reports
- Contributions to candidate/ elected officials

Additional fields that are a part of best practices for increasing search abilities:

- Business address
- Employer address
- Source of funds for expenditures and events (i.e. PACs, individuals, businesses)
- Contributor name, occupation, and address for bundled contributions to candidates/elected officials
- Year and date of report to allow for search and sort function for the above items across multiple years
- Specific date field that would produce information regarding all lobbyists' or individuals' expenditures for specific dates to show all events or donations reported for a certain date for both 48 hour reports and regular lobbyist reports

#2 Increase usability of registration and reports online

Improving the online reporting system will reduce the amount of staff time required to review individual forms and upload them to the Secretary of State's website in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable format. This will ultimately reduce staffing costs to the Secretary of State's office.

The use of multi-select and drop down menus online will provide the Secretary of State's staff:

- Clean and easy to read/review reports
- A simpler process for publishing registration reports to the Secretary of State's website

Moving to an online format also allows the Secretary of State to more easily recognize missing or late reports as well as reports that require additional information.

#3 Add more specificity and direction to the reporting forms:

Currently, lobbyists are reporting similar and sometimes conflicting numbers in the expenditures, events, and bundling sections of the form, making it difficult to compare across lobbyists and their employers. Clarifying

exactly what should be included in each section will help the Secretary of State's office comply with the requirements in the new law.

Additional best practices:

- Create "find" tool for Lobbyists names and employers to be searched within index

References and resources regarding searchable, sortable, and downloadable information

Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-109/pdf/STATUTE-109-Pg691.pdf>

SEC. 6. Disclosure and Enforcement

(3) develop filing, coding, and cross-indexing systems to carry out the purpose of this Act, including—

(A) a publicly available list of all registered lobbyists, lobbying firms, and their clients; and

(B) computerized systems designed to minimize the burden of filing and maximize public access to materials filed under this Act;

Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-121/pdf/STATUTE-121-Pg735.pdf>

SEC. 209. Public availability of lobbying disclosure information; maintenance of information

In HLOGA, note that throughout the bill, there is language about the degree to which the information is searchable —

“(9) maintain all registrations and reports filed under this Act, and make them available to the public over the Internet, without a fee or other access charge, in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable manner, to the extent technically practicable, that—

“(A) includes the information contained in the registrations and reports;

“(B) is searchable and sortable to the maximum extent practicable, including searchable and sortable by each of the categories of information described in section 4(b) or 5(b); and

“(C) provides electronic links or other appropriate mechanisms to allow users to obtain relevant information in the database of the Federal Election Commission;

Sunlight Foundation's guidelines for open data

<http://sunlightfoundation.com/opendataguidelines/#open-formats>

- *For maximal access, data must be released in formats that lend themselves to easy and efficient reuse via technology.*
- *In addition to releasing information in formats that allow for the maximal amount of technical reuse, appropriate methods of distribution should be considered, to maximize the degree of access, use and quality of published information.*

Sunlight Foundation's guidelines specific to lobbying disclosure

<http://sunlightfoundation.com/lobbyingguidelines/#free-open-and-reusable-data>

- *In order to make information about lobbying meaningful, it should be available free of charge and published in an open format. Data should also be available for bulk download.*