

MAINE LOBBYING OR NOT: COMMON SCENARIOS

Factual Background	Lobbying Or Not?
You communicate with a legislator's staff member in order to secure an amendment to a pending bill on behalf of a client for compensation.	Lobbying, as this is an effort 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 for compensation.	Not lobbying, as Maine does not regulate efforts to influence administrative rules or regulations.
You communicate with a contact at Department of Education and inquire about the status of a grant on behalf of a client.	Not lobbying, as seeking a grant is not lobbying under the Lobbying Law.
You communicate with a policy-making official on the Public Utilities Commission asking them to encourage the legislature to adopt an amendment to a utility bill.	Lobbying, as communication with certain policy making officials within the executive branch in an effort to influence legislative action is considered lobbying. Those executive branch offices are listed in Section 959 or Title 5, Chapter 71 of the Maine Code.
An organization circulates an email or posts a tweet to the general public urging people to contact their legislator to vote "No" on a particular bill.	Not lobbying, as communications to the general public delivered via email or social media do not constitute lobbying in Maine.
An organization circulates a mailer to the general public urging people to contact their legislator to vote "No" on a particular bill.	This type of indirect lobbying must be reported only if the expenditure exceeds \$15,000/month. Only communications to the general public delivered by: broadcast, cable or satellite; print media; or mail or comparable delivery service; counts as indirect lobbying.

NOTE: With each advocacy communication, an organization must determine whether the communication constitutes lobbying for Maine disclosure purposes but also whether the communication constitutes lobbying for IRS 990 purposes.

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