

MINNESOTA LOBBYING OR NOT: COMMON SCENARIOS

Factual Background	Lobbying Or Not?
You communicate with a legislator’s staff in order to secure an amendment to a pending bill on behalf of a client or employer 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 or employer for compensation.	Lobbying, as this is an effort to influence administrative action.
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 Minnesota’s lobbying law
You communicate with a contact at the Department of Health to request information about complying with a particular law on behalf of a client or employer.	Not lobbying, as requesting information regarding compliance with a law is not considered lobbying.
You contact the Scott County Elections Department to urge them to adopt a new voting system for the 2020 elections.	Lobbying, as any attempt to influence official action of a “metropolitan governmental unit” is lobbying under Minnesota law. A “metropolitan governmental unit” includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, & Washington counties, cities <50,000 in those counties, the Met. Council, and certain railroad authorities and metropolitan agencies.
An organization circulates a mailer to the general public urging people to contact their legislator to vote “No” on a particular bill.	Lobbying, as any communication with the general public urging them to communicate with public officials is considered lobbying under Minnesota law.
An organization circulates a mailer to the general public urging voters to vote “No” on a question on the ballot.	Not lobbying, but may be considered a political communication for campaign finance purposes.

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

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