

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION

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Lobby Registration Renewal for 2020

This notice is to remind you that your 2019 lobby registration will automatically expire on December 31, 2019.

LOBBY REGISTRATION RENEWAL FOR 2020: The lobby registration fee is \$750 for most registrants plus the non-refundable electronic payment service fee of \$17.13 for credit card transactions. For registrants representing only organizations exempt from federal income tax under Sec. 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(6), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the fee is \$150 plus the non-refundable electronic payment service fee of \$3.63 for credit card transactions. There is no service fee for payments made by electronic check (ACH) or by personal/business check. Every registration must include a completed Form SSN that is part of the filing application and is required by Chapter 232 of the Family Code for possible use by the Attorney General to locate individuals who might be delinquent in the payment of child support.

ELECTRONIC FILING: Lobby registrations and lobby activity reports must be filed electronically. For information about electronic filing, go to <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/lobby> on our website. When you file electronically, note that a report HAS NOT been filed unless you receive a confirmation number. The lobby registration form instructions are available at <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/forms/lobby> on our website.

FILING SCHEDULES AND MORE: Lobby registrations for 2020 may be filed beginning December 1, 2019. Future deadlines are listed on the filing schedules located at https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/schedules/filing_schedules.php on our website. Also on our website are forms, instructions, filing guides, and other information that you may find useful.

CHANGES TO THE 2020 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS: Lobby registrations for 2020 have three changes that may affect you:

- 1) The compensation/reimbursement threshold is increasing from \$1,000 to \$1,560. The expenditure threshold is increasing from \$500 to \$780. This means, for 2020, a person must register as a lobbyist if that person either:
 - Receives, or is entitled to receive under an agreement under which the person is retained or employed, compensation or reimbursement of more than \$1,560 in a calendar quarter to lobby. This does not include reimbursement for the person's own travel, food, lodging, or membership dues.
- OR**
- Makes expenditures of more than \$780 in a calendar quarter to lobby. This does not include expenditures for the person's own travel, food, lodging, or membership dues.

2) Lobbyists must declare both their status under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. Section 611 et seq.) (“FARA”) and their FARA registration number, if issued, on the lobby registration form. Until the filing application requires you to enter your status, use the Memo section of the Form REG to state whether you are registered, or required to be registered, under that law, and state your Agent ID number if one has been issued to you. For example, you may state in the Memo:

“I am currently registered and my FARA registration number is _____.”, or,

“I am currently required to be registered under FARA, but am not currently registered.”

3) The annual compensation and reimbursement thresholds have been adjusted for inflation and are effective for lobby activities occurring in 2020. Because ***the filing application has not been updated to use these new thresholds at this time***, you will continue to use the compensation ranges you used in 2019 until the filing application is updated.

compAmountCd Import Code*	Compensation Range
LOBBCOMPEQZERO	\$0.00
LOBBCOMP01	Less than \$17,860
LOBBCOMP02	\$17,860 - \$44,629.99
LOBBCOMP03	\$44,630 - \$89,259.99
LOBBCOMP04	\$89,260 - \$178,519.99
LOBBCOMP05	\$178,520 - \$267,769.99
LOBBCOMP06	\$267,770 - \$357,029.99
LOBBCOMP07	\$357,030 - \$446,279.99
LOBBCOMP08	\$446,280 - \$535,539.99
LOBBCOMP09	\$535,540 - \$624,789.99
LOBBCOMP10	\$624,790 - \$714,049.99
LOBBCOMP11	\$714,050 - \$803,309.99
LOBBCOMP12	\$803,310 - \$892,559.99
LOBBCOMP13	\$892,560 or more
LOBBCOMPEXACTAMT	Exact Amount

If you file your 2020 registration before the lobby filing application has been updated with these adjusted compensation thresholds, your registration will be accepted with the previous compensation levels. You are not required to update your registration to show the new compensation ranges unless you file an amended registration after the software has been updated.

* If you import your clients into your Lobby registration ***after the lobby filing application has been updated***, you must enter the new compAmountCd codes listed in column 1 of the above table into your csv file.