

**Illinois Society of Association Executives**  
**Legislative Update**  
May 1, 2015

With the first set of major deadlines behind us and Fiscal Year 2016 negotiations underway, below is a summary of activity related to lobby registration and ethics reform.

**Working Groups & Executive Initiatives**

In addition to budget negotiations, there is a “working group” of legislative and Governor’s office individuals who are tasked with crafting ethics legislation this session, as was reported in Capitol Fax recently. Among the issues on their agenda, the Governor’s office is seeking to place term limits on legislators.

Prior to the formation of this working group, some discussions were taking place between the Secretary of State’s office and at least the House Democrats on several possible changes to the Lobby Registration Act:

- Limiting certain reporting requirements for only expenditures by lobbyists to members of boards or commissions that make binding recommendations;
- Requiring a clear determination by either a Constitutional Office or the General Assembly regarding which boards and commissions make binding recommendations;
- Clarifying requirements on reporting expenditures when an expenditure passes through more than one registered entity.

Another initiative that may be central to the ethics working group agenda is Executive Order 9, which was part of Governor Rauner’s ethics reform package rolled out in January 2015.

Executive Order 15-09 addresses three specific areas of ethics regarding state employees:

- Adds to current revolving door prohibitions by prohibiting state employees from lobbying any state agency for one year after employment ends;
- With some modifications, EO 15-09 reinforces the current ban on “gifts” to state employees, including their spouse and children;
  - Allows only payment of “de minimis meals or refreshments...at a...meeting or reception...in the course of...official duties”;
  - Requires the payment of costs for educational materials and travel expenses to be coordinated directly with the state employee’s agency;
- Adds to current state employee disclosures by including (1) any situation where the employee has more than a 5% financial interest in a property contract with the state, (2) any “non-governmental position held,” or (3) any litigation involving the state.

Cook-Witter will be attempting to gain further insight into the working group process and will provide additional information as it comes available.

## Specific Legislation

- HB185 (Rep. Scott Drury) Legislative Committee Testimony
  - Requires a sworn oath to be taken prior to testimony being provided to a legislative committee;
- HB186 (Rep. Scott Drury) Revolving Door Restrictions
  - Prohibits former state employees and officials from associating with lobbyist activity in any way for two years, and prohibits the spouse or child of an executive constitutional officer or General Assembly member from lobbying or receiving compensation from a lobbying entity
- HB187 (Rep. Scott Drury) Lobby Activities & Restrictions
  - Expands lobbying activities to include interaction with local government and employees of government officials, and prohibits family members or business associates of state officials from becoming lobbyists
- HB 3409 (Rep. Stephanie Kifowit) Lobbyist Disclosures
  - Requires the disclosure of lobbyist compensation and contracts
- SB110 (Sen. Emil Jones, III) Lobbyist Intimidation
  - Prohibits a lobbyist from intimidating another individual or entity registered under the Act

Although these pieces of legislation did not move beyond the committee deadlines, their background may still be relevant to ongoing issues this session.

Representative Scott Drury was one of two legislators pictured with Governor Rauner at the signing of Executive Order 15-09; although, there has been no indication as to what if any involvement Rep. Drury has with the current ethics working group.

Regarding the disclosure of lobbyist information, the Secretary of State's office was asked to provide insight on how it could implement the disclosure of lobbyist salaries and contracts. Also, both the City of Chicago and New York State already have laws substantially similar to HB3409.

Finally, the lobbyist intimidation legislation was in direct response to confrontations last year between representatives of labor unions and business groups.

Going forward there are several important legislative deadlines:

- May 8, 2015: House Deadline for Senate Bills from Committee
- May 15, 2015: Senate Deadline for House Bills from Committee
- May 22, 2015: Third Reading Deadlines for Bills from the Opposite Chamber

As always, please let us know if you have any questions, and we look forward to providing another update following the May 15, 2015 committee deadline.