Act 116 of the 2004 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature establishes a system for executive branch lobbying registration and reporting parallel to the legislative branch lobbying laws. It requires persons who attempt to influence executive branch officials and who entertain those officials to register and report. The law became effective January 1, 2005, and the first disclosure report is due by August 15, 2005.

A "lobbyist" is an individual who, as a part of his job, communicates with one or more executive branch officials to influence action of an official and who spends $500 or more in a calendar year to entertain executive branch officials. A "lobbyist" is also an individual paid to represent another person in communicating with one or more executive branch officials to influence action of an official and who spends $500 or more in a calendar year to entertain executive branch officials.

The actions that a lobbyist seeks to influence include policymaking, rulemaking, adjudication, licensing, regulation, enforcement, contracts, RFPs, development of specifications, selecting a person to engage in a governmental function, adopting, repealing, or changing a fee, affecting legislation, or any act to effectuate the powers, functions, or duties of an agency or official.

Food, drinks, and refreshments valued at more than $10 for executive branch officials and accounted or expected to be accounted for as an ordinary and necessary business expense are counted towards the $500 threshold to determine if an individual must register as a lobbyist. Payments for cultural or sporting events for elected officials (limited to $100 per event and $500 per year) are also counted.

A lobbyist must register within five days of employment in a position requiring him to lobby or within five days after the first action requiring registration. Registration is on annual basis and may be renewed between December 1 and January 31. A $110 registration fee is required.

Disclosure reports are due by February 15 and August 15 for the preceding six-month reporting period. With limited exceptions, the name of an individual executive branch official and his agency must be disclosed when expenditures on that official exceed $50 on one occasion or $250 in a six-month reporting period.

This summary does not fully state the law. Additional information and registration and disclosure forms can be obtained from the Louisiana Board of Ethics, www.ethics.state.la.us, phone (225) 763-8777 or (800) 842-6630.