



CLIENT ADVISORY

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HONEST LEADERSHIP AND OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007

On September 14, 2007, the President signed into effect the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007. This Act amends the Lobbying Disclosure Act, the Federal Election Campaign Act, the House and Senate Ethics Rules and the Foreign Agents Registration Act. The following details key provisions:

Lobbying Disclosure Act.

- Lobbying Disclosure Reports to be filed on a quarterly basis and not a semiannual basis.
- The dollar amount threshold requiring registration as a lobbyist for lobbying activities has been reduced to \$2,500 for total income and \$10,000 for total expenditures.
- Must file Lobbying Disclosure Reports on a semiannual basis for certain contributions.
- Reports must be filed in electronic form.
- Lobbyist registrations no longer require disclosure of an organization if such organization affiliated with the lobbyist is listed on the client's publicly accessible internet website as being a member of or contributor to the client, unless the organization in whole or in major part plans, supervises, or controls such lobbying activities.
- Increase civil penalty to \$200,000 for anyone who knowingly violates the Act.
- A person may not make a gift or provide travel to a covered legislative branch official if the person knows that such gift or travel may not be accepted by the covered legislative branch official.

Federal Election Campaign Act

Requires authorized committees, leadership PACs and party committees to disclose the name, address, employer of and the bundled contribution amount credited to, each lobbyist who has provided the

committee with bundled contributions totaling over \$15,000 during a specified time period. Bundled contributions are all contributions that have been received over a 6 month time period from January - June or July - December of a given year. Bundled contributions are forwarded from the contributor to the committee by the lobbyist or PAC or, alternately, are contributions received from a contributor, but credited to the lobbyist or PAC by the committee through records showing the amount raised by the lobbyist or PAC.

House and Senate Ethics Rule

- A Member may not knowingly accept a gift from a registered lobbyist, an agent of a foreign principal or a private entity that retains a registered lobbyist.
- A Member may accept an offer of free attendance in the Member's home state for a conference, forum, panel discussion, dinner event, reception or similar event provided by a sponsor of the event if the event meets certain criteria.
- Members must attend mandatory ethics training and awareness programs.

For more information please contact Popovits & Robinson at 708/479-3230.

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