



**NEW ILLINIOS LAW REQUIRES REGISTRATION AS A LOBBYIST  
BEFORE COMMUNICATING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

Public Act 102-0664 took effect on January 1, 2022, and amended Illinois's Lobbyist Registration Act to expand the requirements for registering with the Secretary of State as a lobbyist, which previously only applied to communications with state officials. The amended statute now applies those same requirements to all lobbying communications with local government officials, including the following categories of officials:

- Mayors, presidents, aldermen, commissioners, and trustees of a city, village, or town;
- County board members and countywide elected officials;
- Township board members and township elected officials; and
- Members of any board, commission, authority, or task force created by a local ordinance or order of a mayor or village or town president.

In order for an individual or an organization's activity to qualify as "lobbying" under this Act, the individual must communicate directly with an official (or solicit someone else to communicate with an official), or incur reportable expenditures, for the purpose of influencing any executive, legislative, or administrative action. The Act applies to all municipalities and counties across the state, except for Chicago, which has its own separate lobbyist registration ordinance. Anyone who is required to register under the amended Act and fails to do so could be subject to substantial monetary penalties as well as a three-year ban on future lobbying activity.

The Act does provide a number of exemptions to the registration requirements, including when an individual appears before a legislative committee to provide testimony relating to a law before that committee, or when an individual does not receive any compensation for his or her lobbying efforts. In addition, for entities that qualify as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(5) of the IRS Code, any communications with the public, a segment of the public, or the organization's members encouraging them to communicate with local officials

will not be considered lobbying under the Act. A union’s public outreach campaign on a pending matter may fall under this exemption if the union has obtained and maintained its 501(c)(3) or (5) status.

Local unions, especially those representing public-sector employees, should review any interactions that their officers have with local government officials to determine whether it is necessary to register with the Secretary of State. If you are unsure whether you or your organization qualifies as a lobbyist under the amended Act, or whether your activities fall under one of the statutory exemptions, please do not hesitate to contact the attorneys at Asher, Gittler & D’Alba.

ASHER, GITTLER & D’ALBA, LTD.  
200 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 720  
Chicago, IL 60606 – 312.263.1500

© 2022 Asher, Gittler & D’Alba, Ltd.  
All rights reserved.  
Dated: January 27, 2022

This release informs you of items of interest in the field of labor relations. It is not intended to be used as legal advice or opinion.

U.S. News & Report’s Best Law Firms Designation is for Chicago Tier 1 rankings in Employment Law (Individuals), Labor Law (Union), and Litigation (Labor and Employment) and a National Tier 2 ranking in Litigation (Labor and Employment).

