

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

MAY 6, 1980

PRESENT

Sidney Goldmann, Chairman  
Josephine S. Margetts, Member  
Andrew Axtell, Member  
Lewis B. Thurston, Executive Director  
Edward J. Farrell, General Legal Counsel  
Herbert Wolfe, Assistant Executive Director  
\*Gregory E. Nagy, Staff Counsel

The chairman called the meeting to order and announced that pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Law, P. L. 1975, c.231, annual notice of the meetings of the Commission, as amended, has been filed with the Secretary of State's office, and that copies have been posted in the State House Annex, and mailed to the Newark Star Ledger, the Philadelphia Bulletin and the entire State House press corps.

The meeting convened at 10:10 a.m.

1. Executive Session

On a motion by Chairman Goldmann, seconded by Commissioner Axtell and a vote of 3-0, the Commission went into executive session to discuss the executive session minutes of the Commission meeting of April 16, enforcement cases ready for Commission determination and matters of current litigation. At the conclusion of the executive session the Commission returned to public session on a motion by Chairman Goldmann, seconded by Commissioner Margetts and a vote of 3-0.

2. Approval of Public Session Minutes of Commission Meeting of April 16, 1980

On a motion by Commissioner Axtell, seconded by Commissioner Margetts and a vote of 3-0, the Commission approved the minutes of the public session of the Commission meeting of April 16, 1980.

3. Public Indication of Executive Session Action from the Commission Meeting of April 16, 1980.

On a motion by Commissioner Margetts, seconded by Commissioner Axtell and a vote of 3-0, the Commission made public its enforcement determinations in the matters set forth in the news release attached to these minutes which were determined by the Commission at its meeting on April 16, 1980.

4. Report on Legislation

The executive director reported on the current status of S1176, sponsored by Senator Yates, which provides for public financing, contribution limits and expenditure limits for the

\* Mr. Nagy was not present and did not participate in item No. 1, the executive session.

gubernatorial primary elections beginning in 1981.

5. Review of ELEC Proposed Lobbyist Regulations

The Commission reviewed in detail the first 14 pages of its 22 pages of proposed regulations on this subject. The Commission members tentatively agreed on the following modification, among others, after also reviewing the public hearing testimony and written commentary:

1. Amend the definition of "covered employee" to specify that such employee would have to spend 10% or 180 hours per year, whichever is less, of his time in lobbying activity.
2. Exclude the Federal Government and its employees from the scope of the Act.
3. Modify the language of the expenditures which count toward the qualification threshold.
4. Modify the description of lobbying activity engaged in, which must be reported.
5. Not require that contract lobbyist apportion all expenditures among principals.
6. Define "public event" and specify the reporting which applies to it. Delete the language setting forth a \$50 threshold re "specific occasion".
7. Reduce the period of time from 6 years to 3 years that records must be retained and restrict this provision to only those records which relate to lobbying activity.
8. Clarify the provisions regarding a treasurer to indicate that the treasurer who may be designated may be a person other than the corporate treasurer or organization treasurer.
9. Specify a number of language changes in various parts of the bill in addition to those specified above.

The Commission also discussed in some detail whether "grass roots" lobbying activities, in whole or part, and activities of certain religious and controversial groups, could or should be reported.

The Commission agreed to continue its review of the proposed regulations and comments received on them at its next meeting.

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6. Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lewis B. Thurston, III". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

LEWIS B. THURSTON, III  
Executive Director

LBT/cm  
attachment