



NEWS RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

At a special meeting requested by the State Senate, the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) acted today to delay the deadline for officers and directors of not-for-profit organizations to disclose political contributions under the pay-to-play laws.

Jerry Fitzgerald English, Chair of the Commission, said that “the Commission acted in response to a request from the State Senate that the Commission postpone the filing deadline to give the Legislature time to amend the law when it convenes in December.”

ELEC has interpreted the pay-to-play law as requiring reporting by not-for-profit organizations that receive government contracts and had set November 30, 2007, as the filing deadline for these organizations. The Attorney General, on the other hand, has indicated that the law can be read to exempt not-for-profit organizations from filing requirements.

“The Commission felt that it was reasonable to give the Legislature sufficient time to clarify its intent and take action to clear up the confusion surrounding the issue,” said English.

By issuing a stay of the deadline, the Commission has put a hold on its regulation until its January meeting.

English said that “the request from the State Senate stated that legislation is being prepared that would exempt not-for-profit organizations from pay-to-play filing responsibilities. In light of this fact, the Commission felt that it is in the public interest to comply with this request and allow time for the Legislature to amend the law in accordance with its wishes.”

English added, however, that “the Commission hopes that during the process the Legislature will look into the different types of not-for-profit organizations and fashion its amendments accordingly.”

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