

(4) SPENDS AT LEAST \$2,000, INCLUDING POSTAGE, FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF SOLICITING OTHERS TO COMMUNICATE WITH AN OFFICIAL TO INFLUENCE LEGISLATIVE ACTION OR EXECUTIVE ACTION; OR

(5) SPENDS AT LEAST \$500 TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO ONE OR MORE ENTITIES REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This subsection is new language derived without substantive change from former Art. 40A, §§ 1-201(t)(1) and 5-103.

In the lead-in to this subsection, an employer of a regulated lobbyist remains within the definition of "regulated lobbyist" even if exempt from registration and reporting under subsection (c) of this section. This clarifies an ambiguity in former Art. 40A as to whether an exempted employer remained a "registrant" for purposes of conflict of interest and financial disclosure provisions.

Also in the lead-in, the word "entity" is substituted for the former word "person" to clarify the inclusion of governmental units as "regulated lobbyists" under certain circumstances.

In paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection, the word "earns" is substituted for the former word "receives" to clarify that the threshold dollar amount need not literally be paid by the employer in order to require registration, so long as the compensation is owed by the employer.

Defined terms: "Compensation" § 15-102

"Employee" § 15-102

"Entity" § 15-102

"Ethics Commission" § 15-102

"Executive action" § 15-102

"Legislative action" § 15-102

"Official" § 15-102

"Procurement contract" § 15-102

"Regulated lobbyist" § 15-102

(B) EXEMPTED ACTIVITIES.

(1) THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE EXEMPT FROM REGULATION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE:

(I) APPEARANCES AS PART OF THE OFFICIAL DUTIES OF AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE, OR THE UNITED STATES, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE APPEARANCE IS NOT ON BEHALF OF ANY OTHER ENTITY;

(II) ACTIONS OF A MEMBER OF THE NEWS MEDIA, TO THE EXTENT THE ACTIONS ARE IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF GATHERING AND DISSEMINATING NEWS OR MAKING EDITORIAL COMMENT TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC;