

It is important that the information required to be disclosed be assembled in such a way that it can be readily used and understood by all those who are interested. The purpose of registration could be totally defeated if the information filed was produced in an unintelligible manner.

It has been argued before your Committee that the cost of implementing such a system would be prohibitive. We have discussed the cost of operating the system required by the federal lobbying law in the United States both with respect to domestic lobbyists and foreign agents, as well as the system in California and we are impressed with the fact that they operate efficiently with a relatively small staff. For example, in Washington, D.C. where the number of lobbyists is large, only six people are engaged in the registration process.

We recommend that the Assistant Deputy Registrar General be charged with the responsibility of administering the register of lobbyists. This office will maintain records of the information required to be filed and will make same available to the general public on a cost recovery basis.

We recommend that there be no cost associated with the filing of information on lobbying matters.

We recommend that all those who fall within the definition of lobbyist be required to register with the Assistant Deputy Registrar General.

We recommend that within 10 days of the commencement of the conduct of a specific lobbying activity the lobbyist be required to notify the Assistant Deputy Registrar General and disclose the necessary information. The lobbyist shall file a termination notice within 10 days of ceasing work on a particular lobbying activity.

We recommend that the Assistant Deputy Registrar General be empowered to check the filings for deficiencies.