

... to register, or should they only become involved in registration when they  
 hire a paid lobbyist? Should trade associations and unions register? It is argued  
 that if non-profit organizations of grass roots movements are covered by  
 registration, they will have a deterrent effect on their ability to be effective.  
 Are companies who are involved solely in the gathering of information and preparing  
 clients to meet with government officials engaged in lobbying? There are also  
 groups who do not directly approach government officials to influence policy but  
 are involved in mass mailings or advertising campaigns. Are they lobbyists?  
 Finally, should lawyers and accountants be considered to be lobbyists and should  
 they be given special treatment regarding what they claim to be clients.

Confidentiality

For the purposes of registration, California legislation defines a  
 lobbyist as "any person who for compensation engages in direct communication, either  
 with administrative machinery, ... for the purpose of influencing legislative or  
 administrative action" and also bears either a compensation rate of \$1,000 in any  
 calendar month or a contact rate of 25 contacts with officials in any two  
 consecutive months. It should be noted that California law presumes that the  
 definition even further -- it defines a "lobbying firm" which also has to  
 register. Furthermore, those who spend \$5,000 during a calendar quarter for the  
 purpose of influencing legislative or administrative action but do not employ a  
 lobbyist are considered to be lobbyists themselves. This is designed to include  
 those organizations that are only advised in mass mailings or advertising  
 campaigns. In Australia, lobbyists are a single definition. Lobbyists were a  
 person for company who, for financial or other advantage, represents a client in  
 dealings with Government, Government Ministers and officials. The law defines  
 lobbyist as "any person who for financial or other advantage, directly or indirectly,  
 attempts to influence, directly or indirectly, the introduction, passage, defeat or  
 amendment of any legislation before either House of Parliament, or a decision to be  
 taken, or any matter coming within the executive jurisdiction of a Minister of  
 the Crown, whether or not that matter has come or is likely to come before either  
 House of Parliament, for legislative action."