

1973 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. 298 (S.C.A.G.), 1973 S.C. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 3625, 1973 WL 21975

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina

Opinion No. 3625

September 18, 1973

***1** Lobbyists registered with the office of the Secretary of State are required to file expense statements thirty days after the adjournment of the present special session of the General Assembly.

Secretary of State
State of South Carolina

A number of inquiries have been made as to whether lobbyists registered with your office are required to file expense statements thirty days after the adjournment of the present special session of the General Assembly.

The lobbying statute requires that persons employing lobbyists must, within one week after such employment, cause the name of the lobbyist to be entered upon a legislative docket kept in your office. The lobbyist employed is also required to have his name entered upon such docket.

You have annually begun a new legislative docket at the beginning of the January session of the General Assembly for the entry of the names of persons coming within the scope of the law. No special dockets are prepared for the registration of lobbyists at the beginning of any special sessions.

Section 30–155 requires that “within thirty days after the final adjournment of the General Assembly, every person whose name appears upon the legislative docket of the session shall file with the Secretary of State a complete and detailed statement—of all expenses paid or incurred —.”

The use of such phraseology indicates that the General Assembly intended that expense statements by lobbyists be submitted within thirty days after the adjournment of any session of the General Assembly, special or regular, and it is my opinion that any lobbyist whose name appears on your docket is required to file, within thirty days after the conclusion of the current special session of the General Assembly, the expense account required by the provisions of Section 30–155.

If a lobbyist has registered with you on the current legislative docket, begun in January, 1973, it is not necessary, in my opinion, that he register again, but he must file his expense account within thirty days after the adjournment of the present special session just as he was required to file an expense account within thirty days after the adjournment of the previous session which convened in January, 1973. Any person who is not registered on the current legislative docket, but who now begins to engage in lobbying activities within the scope of the law must, of course, register in your office and file the expense accounts as required by the law.

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