



# 2022 Lobbying Disclosure Report

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# Table of Contents

01   Introduction	3
02   Summary of Act 134 of 2006	4
03   Registrations	6
04   Terminations	10
05   Expense Reports	15
06   Top 10 General Subjects of Lobbying	16
07   Allocating Lobbying Cost Categories	17
08   Principal Registrations	18
09   Lobbying Disclosure Audit	21
10   Administration	22
11   Contact Information	23

# Introduction

2022 was the second year of the 2021-22 registration period. The Department of State (Department) continued to work with the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission on the Quarterly Expense Reporting. The Department continued with outreach to registrants with quarterly newsletters of upcoming deadlines and helpful information. Along with quarterly newsletters, autodials and email reminder notices were sent to all principal registrants prior to the Quarterly Expense Report Deadlines.

Act 70 of 2021 introduced equity reports. Each lobbyist and lobbying firm registered with the Department was required to complete an equity report by July 30, 2022. The reporting period was July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. The equity reports disclosed how much equity a lobbyist or lobbying firm holds or has held in an affiliated principal or for whom that lobbyist or lobbying firm lobbied during the reporting period. Equity means any interest or ownership. The term “interest or ownership” includes, but is not limited to, any interest in any shares (however designated, whether voting or nonvoting); membership interests (however designated, whether voting or nonvoting); partnership interests (whether general or limited); and any other interest that confers the right to receive a share of the profits and losses of, or distributions of property of, any partnership or business. The equity reports are published on the Department's website.

The Department looks forward to continuing to serve the people of the commonwealth and Pennsylvania's lobbying community.

# Summary of Act 134 of 2006

[Act 134 of 2006](#) amends Title 65 (relating to public officers) providing for regulation and disclosure of lobbying activity.

The act establishes the authority of the legislature to regulate persons employed to influence the actions of the General Assembly and the Executive Department in a “fair and equitable manner.” It expressly states that



membership in a regulated profession shall not excuse a lobbyist from compliance. The act defines lobbying as “an effort to influence legislative action or administrative action” and includes direct or indirect communication; office expenses; and providing any gift, hospitality, transportation, or lodging to a state official or employee for the purpose of advancing the interest of a lobbyist or principal

The act defines “administrative action” to include an agency’s:

- proposal, consideration, promulgation, or rescission of a regulation;
- development or modification of a statement of policy;
- approval or rejection of a regulation;
- procurement of supplies, services, and construction under 62 Pa C.S. (relating to procurement); and
- review, revision, approval, or disapproval of a regulation under the Regulatory Review Act.

The act also defines “administrative action” as including:

- the Governor’s approval or veto of legislation;
- the nomination or appointment of an individual as an officer or employee of the commonwealth; and
- proposal, consideration, promulgation, or rescission of an executive order.

The act defines “legislative action” to include an action taken by a state official or employee involving the preparation, research, drafting, introduction, consideration, modification, amendment, approval, passage, enactment, tabling, postponement, defeat, or rejection of:

- legislation;
- legislative motions;
- a veto by the Governor;
- confirmation of appointments by the Governor; or
- appointments to public boards or commissions by a member of the General Assembly.

# Registrations

Unless exempt under 65 Pa.C.S. § 13A06, lobbyists, lobbying firms, and principals must register biennially with the Department. The most common exemptions from registration include:

- § 13A06(4): “an individual whose economic consideration for lobbying, from all principals presented, does not exceed ‘\$2,500’ [Effective January 1, 2017, the threshold increased to \$3,000] in the aggregate during any reporting period”; and
- § 13A06(5): “an individual who engages in lobbying on behalf of the individual’s employer if the lobbying represents less than 20 hours during any reporting period.”

With the enactment of Act 2 of 2018, registration must be done electronically using the Department’s [online filing portal](#). The fee to register is \$300 and must be received within five days of filing the registration statement. This registration statement must be filed within 10 days of acting in any capacity as a lobbyist, lobbying firm, or principal.

Lobbyists who register must also supply a photo within five days of filing a registration statement.

Registrants may pay the registration fee online with a credit card through the website or may pay by check. To pay by check, registrants must print a remittance form that has been prepopulated with their specific information and mail it along with the registration fee.

See the definition of “engaging in lobbying” in the regulations at 51 Pa. Code § 51.1. A full list of registration exemptions can be found at 65 Pa.C.S. §13A06.

# Registration Renewals

A lobbyist, lobbying firm, or principal must renew their registration with the Department at the beginning of each new biennial registration period, unless exempt under §13A06 of Act 134 of 2006.

Lobbying registrations expire 10 business days after the beginning of the new registration period. A registration renewal must be filed within 10 days of acting in any capacity as a lobbyist, lobbying firm, or principal. See the definition of “engaging in lobbying” in the regulations at 51 PA. Code § 51.1.

Registration includes a \$300 registration fee payable through the online portal or via check that must be received within five days of filing the registration statement, either online or by paper check. At the time of renewal, registrants are responsible for reviewing their current registration record for updates or changes that should be made to ensure accurate disclosure.

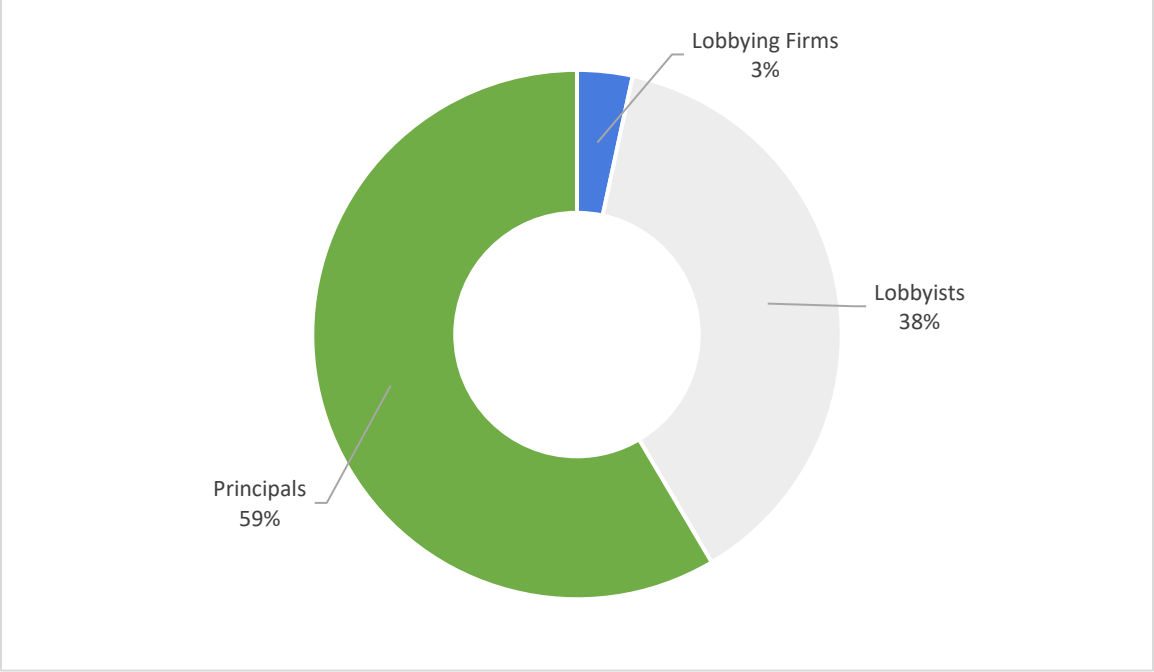
Pursuant to Act 2 of 2018, registrants must renew their registration through the [filing portal](#). Registrants are strongly encouraged to use their current registration record to complete their renewal. Some registrants erroneously create new registration records when attempting to renew their registration, which creates gaps in the continuity of registration information and problems in accurately assessing compliance issues. Registrants should select “Renew” next to their expired registration in the [filing portal](#) to continue to use their existing current registration record.

All registrations that are not renewed by mid-January of the new registration period automatically change to a status of “expired.” Any registrant not actively lobbying at the time may choose to wait until they exceed the income thresholds for registration before renewing.

An “expired” registration does not prevent a registrant from amending any prior quarterly expense reports.

Once a registration has expired, it may not be transferred electronically to a new user unless the registrant renews by check or has the registration renewed by the previous owner by credit card. The Department gives a 15-day grace period for registrations to be transferred to users who will be filing on behalf of the registrant.

# New Registrations for 2022



**Lobbying Firms: 33**

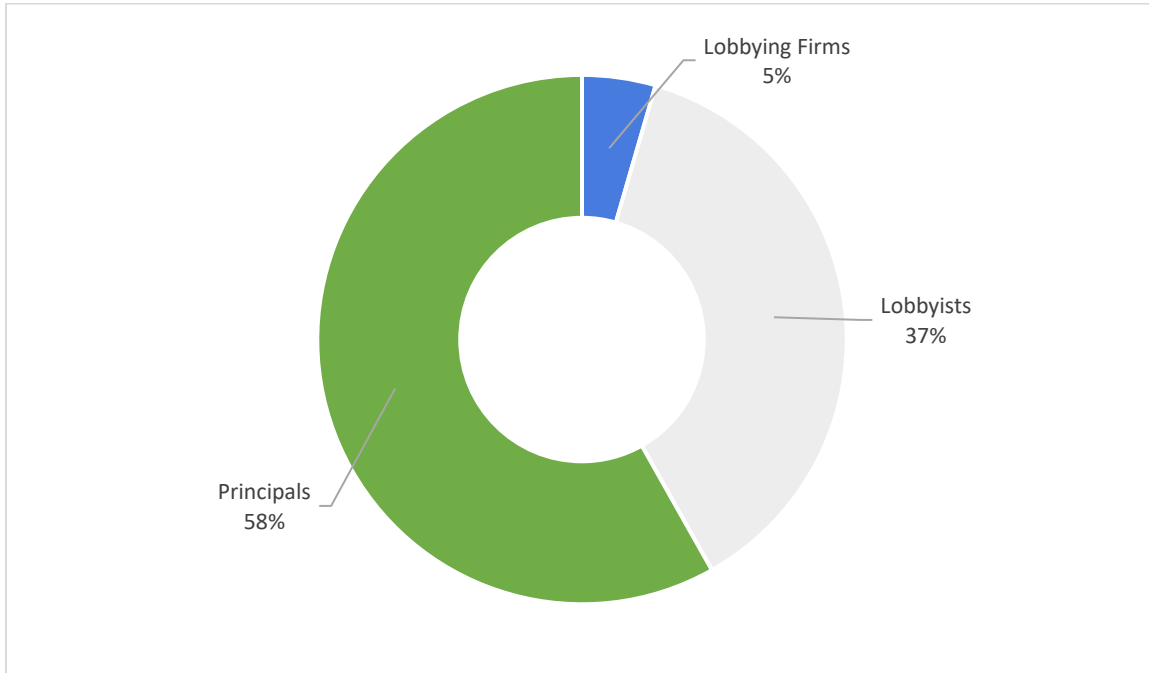
**Lobbyists: 372**

**Principals: 571**

**Total: 976**



# Total Registrants for 2022



**Lobbying Firms:** 162

**Lobbyists:** 1,349

**Principals:** 2,101

**Total:** 3,612

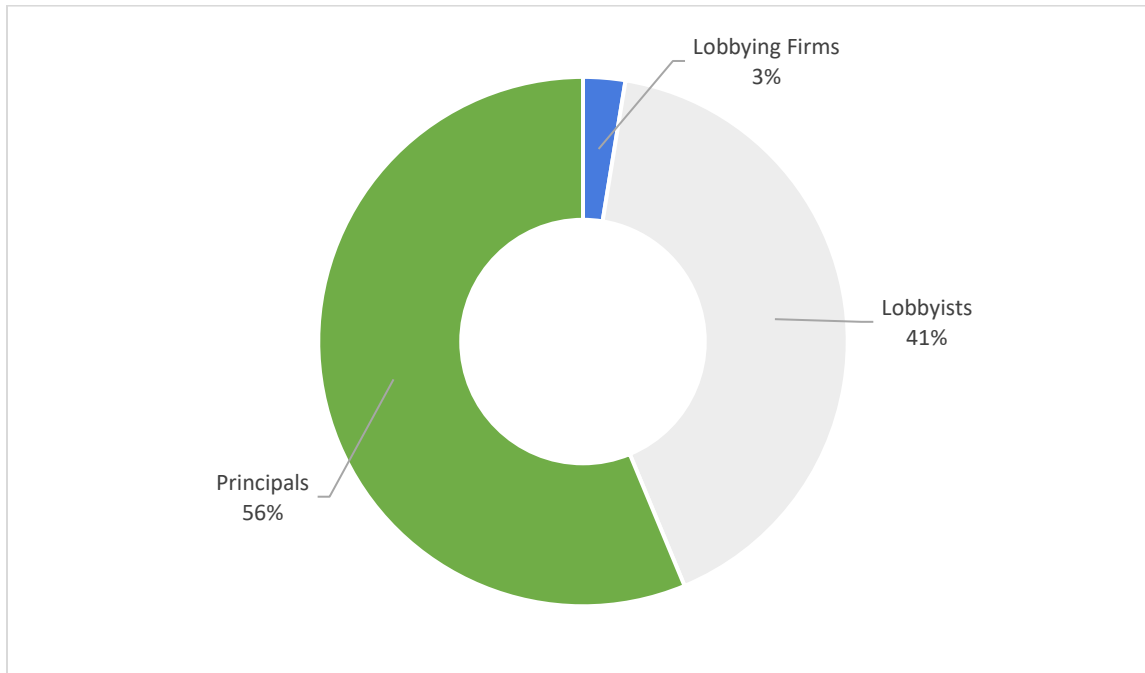
# Terminations



If a registrant intends to cease lobbying activity in the commonwealth, the registrant may file a notice of termination online.

If a former registrant wishes to begin lobbying activity after filing a notice of termination, the former registrant must initiate a new registration statement.

# Total Terminated for 2022



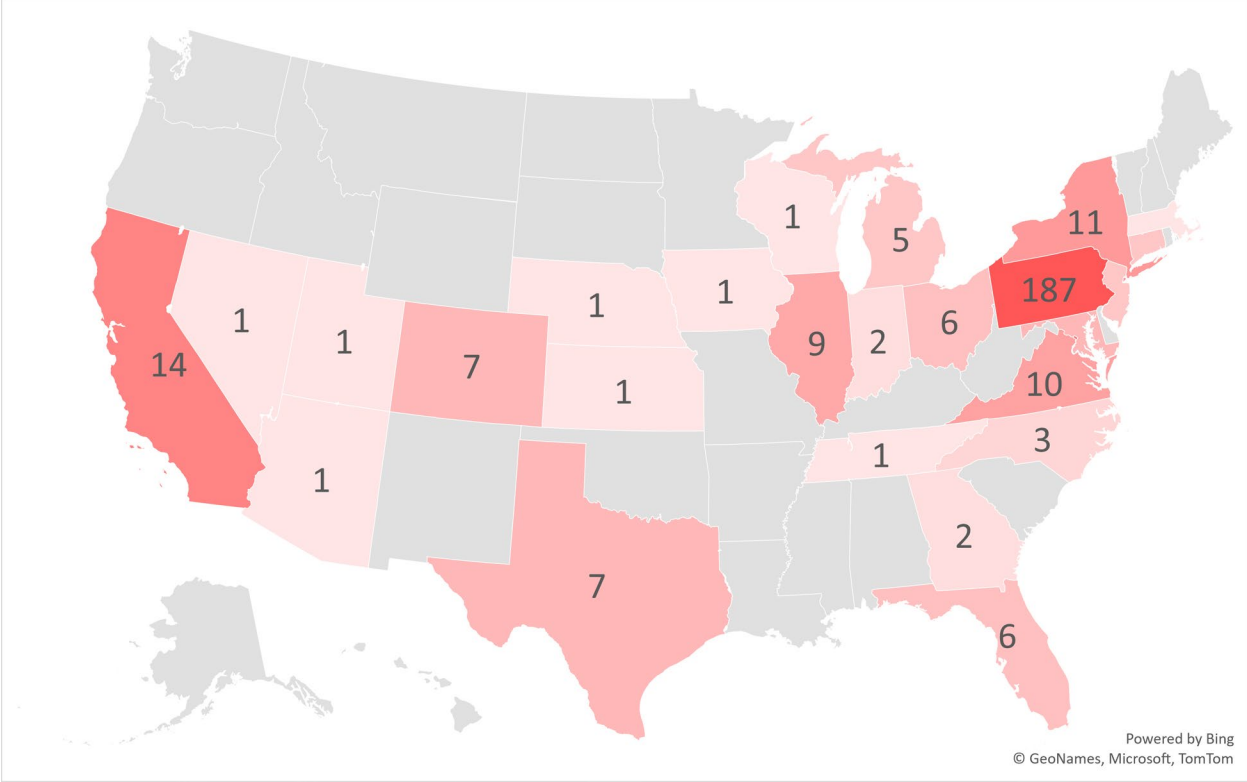
**Lobbying Firms: 8**

**Lobbyists: 128**

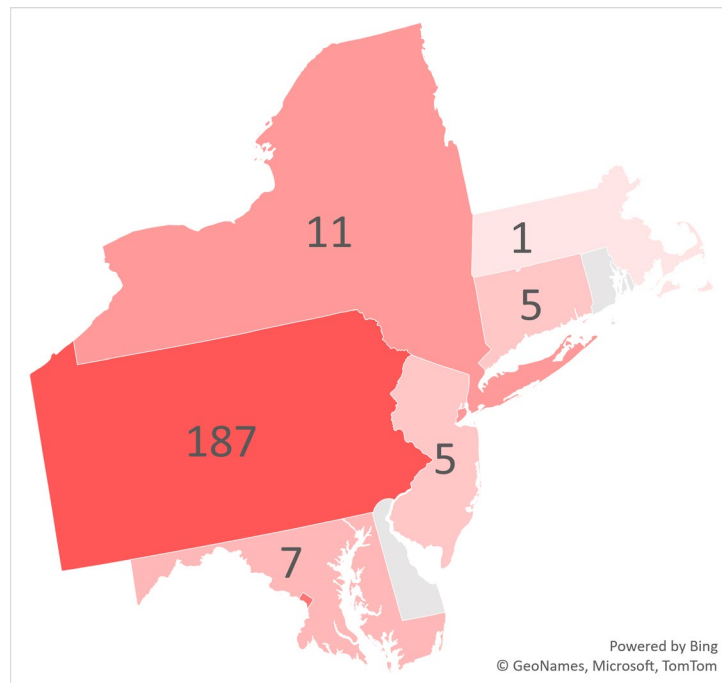
**Principals: 175**

**Total: 311**

# Terminations by State

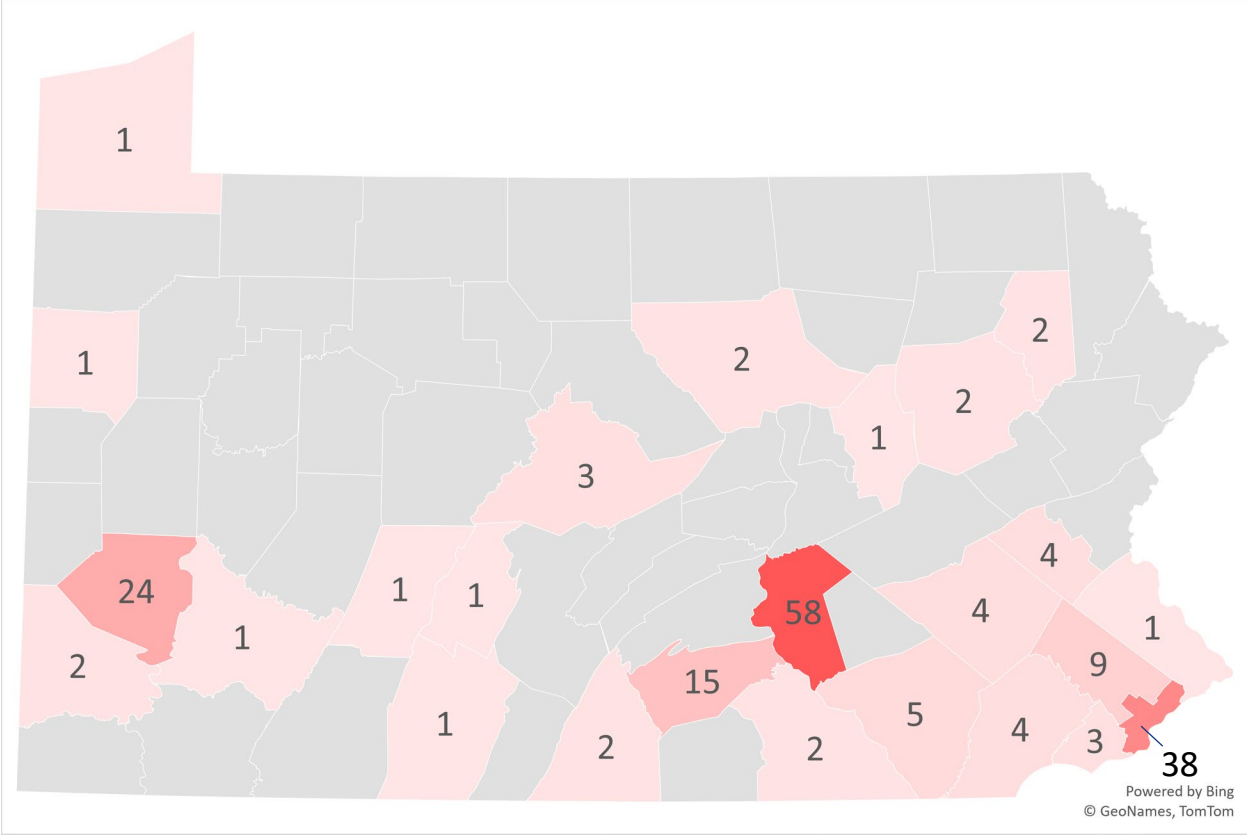


# Terminations by State – Northeast



Washington, D.C.– 16

# Terminations by County



# Expense Reporting

Section 13A05(a) of Act 134 of 2006 requires a registered principal to file quarterly expense reports. If a lobbyist or lobbying firm reports all expenses to and through their respective principals, then the lobbyist or lobbying firm is not required to file expense reports.

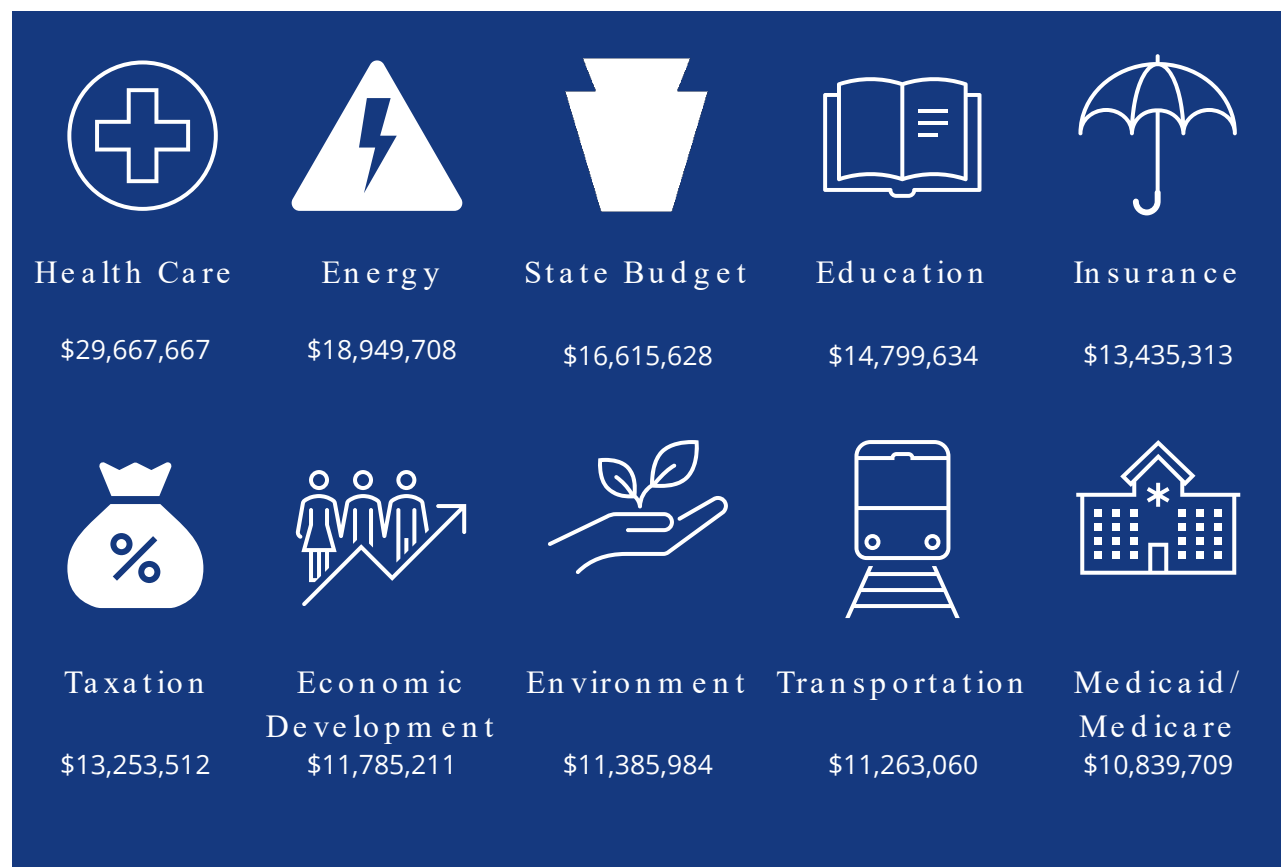
Under certain circumstances, a lobbying firm or lobbyist may be required to submit a quarterly expense report. According to §13A05(b)(6), a lobbying firm or lobbyist not associated with a firm shall submit an expense report if lobbying expenses were not contained in any expense report filed by a represented principal.

A lobbying firm or lobbyist may attach a statement to the report filed by a represented principal describing the limits of the lobbyist's or lobbying firm's knowledge concerning the expenditures contained in the principal's report.

With the enactment of Act 2 of 2018, principals, lobbying firms, and lobbyists who are required to file expense reports must do so electronically using the Department's [online filing portal](#).

# Top 10 General Subjects of Lobbying

Totals below include costs associated with direct and indirect communication, as well as gifts, hospitality, transportation, and lodging.





# Allocated Lobbying Cost Categories

## Reported 2022

Total Expenditure Costs\* \$1,830,869

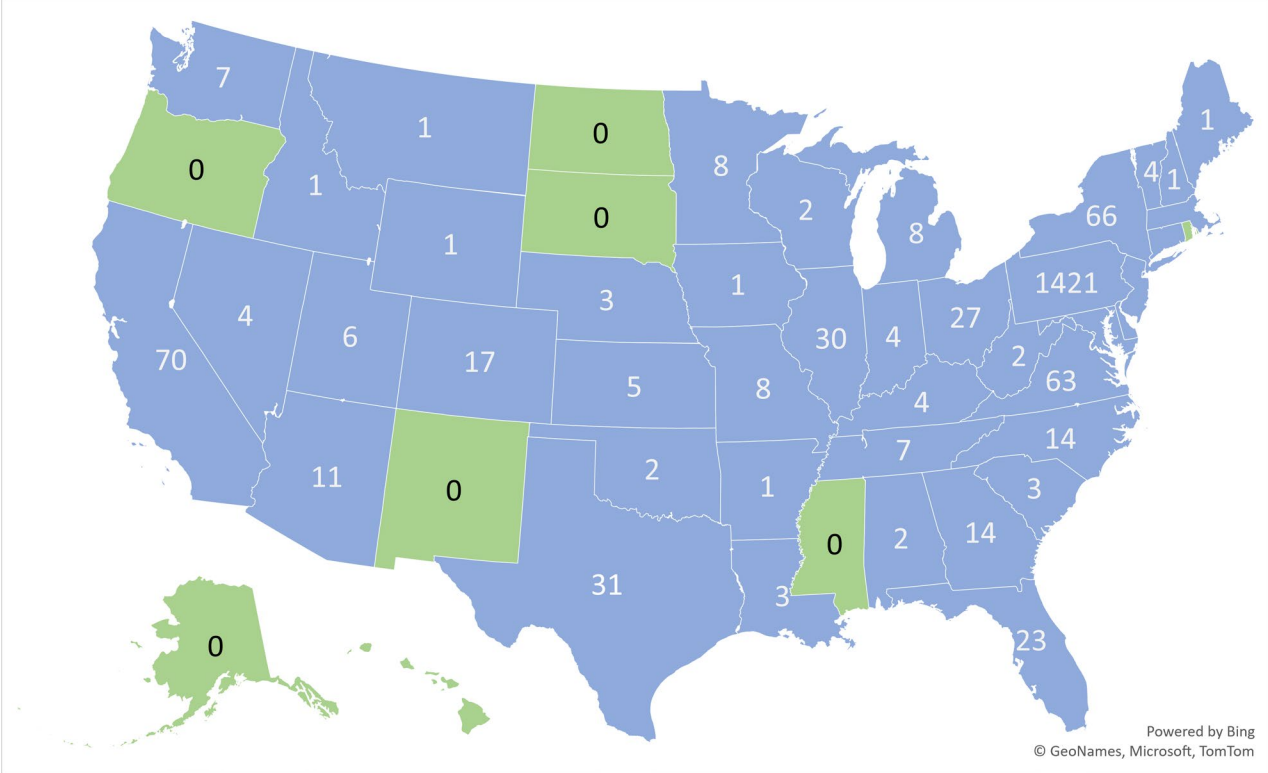
Total Direct Communication Costs \$93,686,485

Total Indirect Communication Costs \$35,510,660

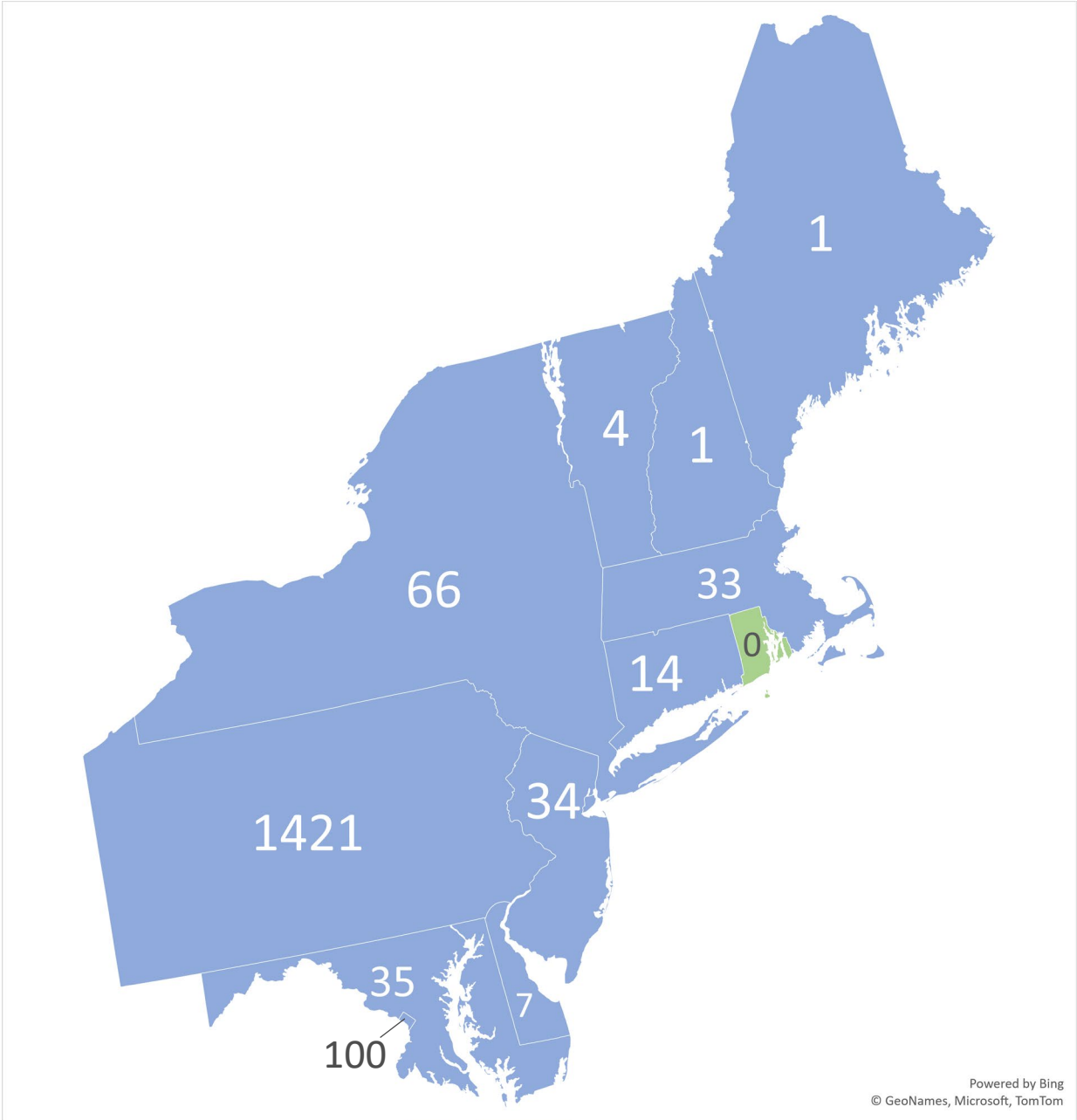
**Grand Total \$131,028,014**

\*Includes gifts, hospitality, transportation, and lodging for state officials or employees or their immediate families

# Principal Registrations by State



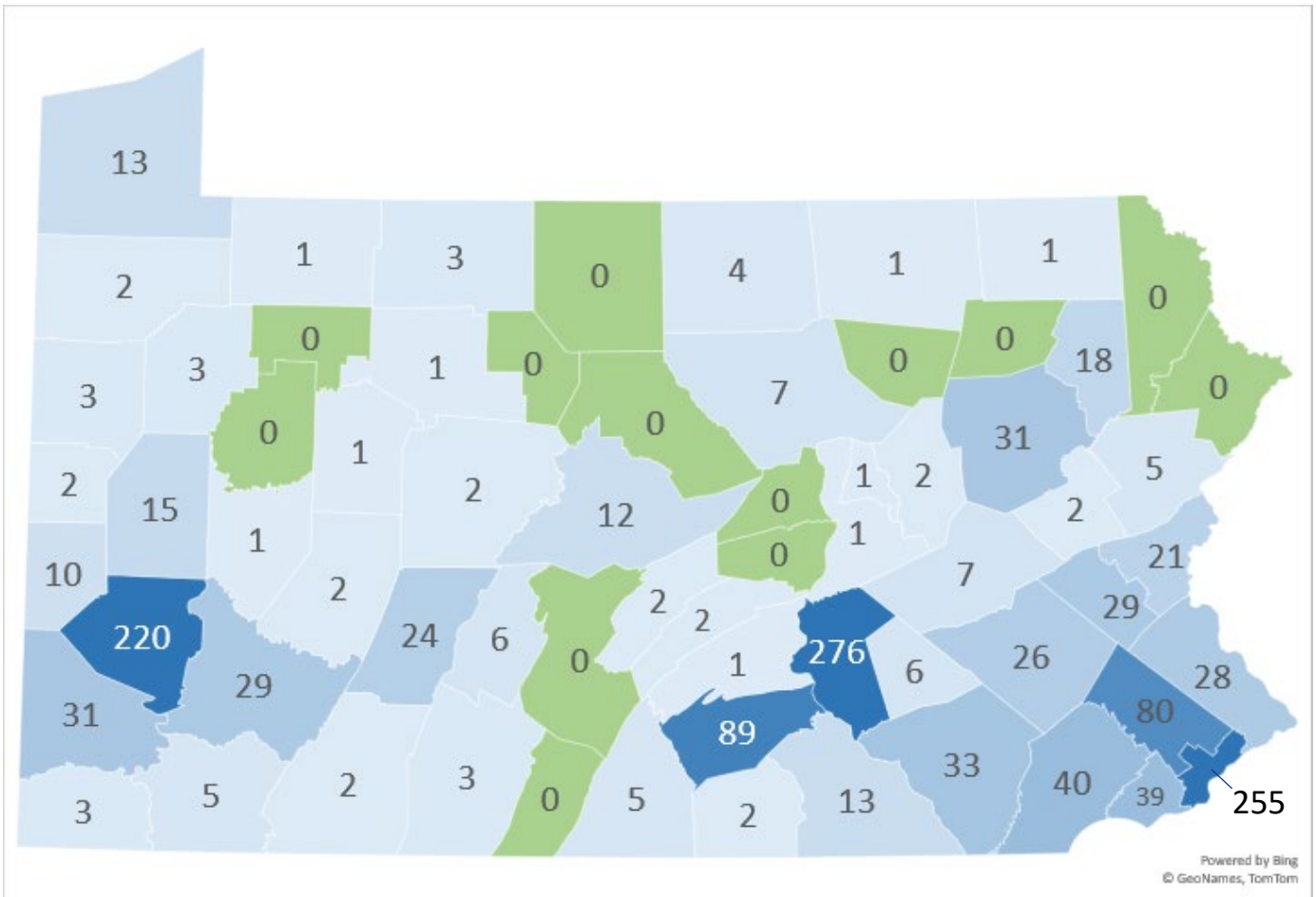
# Principal Registrations by State – Northeast



Washington D.C. - 100

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# Principal Registrations by County



# Lobbying Disclosure Audit

The Department's Division of Campaign Finance and Lobbying Disclosure holds an audit lottery within 60 days of the close of the 4th Quarter. The Department audits registration and expense records of registrants by randomly selecting 3% from each category of registrants: lobbyists, lobbying firms, and principals. The Department sends notification letters to all selected registrants, informing them of the auditing procedures. The Department then provides all registration and reporting records to an independent auditor.

The auditors contact the registrants directly to request any records deemed necessary to complete the audit. Based on their review of the records, the independent auditors draft a report to the Department and the registrant. At that time, the registrant is invited to respond to the findings. The auditors then issue a final report to the registrant and the Department. When required, the Department acts as an intermediary between the auditors and the registrant throughout the auditing process.

In 2022, the Department selected 109 registrants to be audited by Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC. All audit reports remain confidential, except when requested by the State Ethics Commission as part of an investigation into an alleged violation. As such, the audits are a part of the enforcement mechanism under Act 134 of 2006.

# Administration

Responsibility for administration and enforcement of Act 134 of 2006 is assigned to three state agencies and the Disciplinary Board of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as follows:

- The Pennsylvania Department of State is responsible for overseeing registration, quarterly expense reporting, and audits.
- The Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission is responsible for administrative enforcement of the act and for giving advice and opinions of the act.
- The Pennsylvania Attorney General is responsible for criminal enforcement of the act.
- The Disciplinary Board of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court is responsible for administrative enforcement of the act as it pertains to attorneys.

# Contact Information

## **Department of State Bureau of Campaign Finance and Lobbying Disclosure**

500 North Office Building

Harrisburg, PA 17120

717-787-5280 option 5

[ra-lobbydisclosure@pa.gov](mailto:ra-lobbydisclosure@pa.gov)

## **Department of State Office of Communications and Press**

717-783-1621

[ra-st-press@pa.gov](mailto:ra-st-press@pa.gov)

## **Department of State Office of Legislative Affairs**

717-783-6458

## **Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission**

717-783-1610

[www.ethics.pa.gov](http://www.ethics.pa.gov)

## **Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General**

717-787-3391

[www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov)

