



MEMO OF SUPPORT

S5590 (Liu)

Establishes late fees for failure to complete lobbying training on time

March 14, 2025

TITLE OF BILL

An act to amend the executive law and the legislative law, in relation to education and training in ethics and lobbying.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Reinvent Albany supports this bill because we believe it will provide more incentives for clients and lobbyists to complete ethics training on time.

Currently, the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government (COELIG) is not authorized in law to impose fees on those who neglect to complete their lobbying training. Lobbying training is an essential mechanism for ensuring that those attempting to influence state policy understand the law and report complete and accurate information about their lobbying activity. It will also align lobbying training with the process for filing biennial registrations, requiring more frequent training every two years rather than once every three years. We urge the Legislature to pass the bill, and the Governor to sign it.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Section 1 adds a new paragraph (d-1) to Executive Law §94(8) providing that COELIG may impose a fee on lobbyists and their clients who fail to complete lobbying training on time. Section 2 amends subdivision (h) of the Legislative Law §1-d to provide that COELIG's online ethics training course is also for clients listed on a statement of registration, and that training must be completed within 90 days of being listed on a statement of registration. This section also adds a new subdivision (i) providing that the commission may impose a fee of \$25 per day that the lobbyist or client is late to complete training. Section 3 provides that the bill takes effect 60 days after becoming law.