**Subject:** House Lobbyist Disclosure Rules Reminder

Registered Lobbyists of the Florida Legislature,

With Election Day around the corner and Organization Session the 2021 Legislative Session approaching soon we thought it would be helpful to refresh you on the requirements regarding the lobbyist disclosure rules under Rule 17 of the Florida House.

The 2021 “Lobby Year” within the House Disclosure system is now active and bills have begun to be filed for the 2021 legislative session. **All disclosures made to previous lobby years, need to be re-submitted for the new Lobby Year**. Once disclosed, they will remain in effect throughout the entire 2021 Legislative Session. If you have previously disclosed an issue or appropriations project that is subsequently filed as a bill in the House, or Senate, you are required under the rule to add a disclosure for that specific bill number.

These disclosures should be made using the online Lobbyist House Appearance Form that is available through the Florida House website. The username and password to log into the form is the same one that is used to register for principals on the Office of Lobbyist Registration website.

The requirements under Rule 17.1(h) apply to any registered lobbyist who plans to lobby any Member of the House or House staff. Lobbyists are required to disclose what issue or bill they are working on and for whom that work is being done. There is not a requirement to disclose who you are meeting with or when those meetings are taking place. Meeting over the phone or done virtually, should be considered the same as an in-person meeting, and require disclosures to be made prior to these meetings as well.

Disclosures are required for every specific issue, bill or project you plan on actively lobbying. The disclosures **“On matters other than specific bills or amendments identified by bill or amendment number, an issue or appropriation must be identified with specificity sufficient to give notice of each particular legislative subject or proposal that is a subject of any communication that constitutes lobbying.”** For example, “Appropriations” is inadequate to disclose a particular Appropriation Project.

We also encourage you to review the all public entities you or your firm currently represent to confirm that a current contract is on file for every public entity you or your firm currently represent.  Public Entity contracts that have been submitted can be found on the House website on the Lobbyist Disclosure page and any contract available on that page does not need to be resubmitted. However, if there is a public entity you represent or if the term of a contract that was previously submitted has expired prior to the start of the 2021 legislative session, but you are still an active representative of that entity and new contract or contract extension is now in place, that contract or new extension must be submitted to the Public Integrity & Ethics Committee.

Rule 17.1(i) requires that all contracts that you or your firm have with a public Entity need to be submitted to the Public Integrity & Ethics Committee. A Public Entity for the purposes of this rule is **“any officer of this state; any executive or judicial department of this state; any political subdivision, special district, public authority, public hospital, council, commission, unit of local government, or public education entity in this state; or any authority, council, commission, direct-support organization, institution, foundation, or similar entity that is created by law or ordinance to pursue a public purpose, entitled by law or ordinance to any distribution of tax or fee revenues, or organized for the sole purpose of supporting one of the public entities listed in this subsection.”**

Thank you for your continued efforts to make these disclosure rules a success and increase public disclosure. The Rules, along with supplementary materials such as video tutorials and FAQ's, are available at www.myfloridahouse.gov. Should you have questions, please contact the House Public Integrity & Ethics Committee at (850) 717-4881 or by email at LobbyistDisclosure@myfloridahouse.gov and our staff will be happy assist you in any  way that we can.