



DAVID TANGIPA

CA STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER | 8TH DISTRICT



AB 1560 – Public Corruption

Summary:

AB 1560 strengthens laws surrounding corruption in the California political space by prohibiting individuals convicted of crimes related to public corruption from serving as lobbyists in any capacity. AB 1560 prevents the Secretary of State from accepting lobbyist certifications from such individuals and invalidates lobbying credentials upon conviction and requires lobbyist certifications to affirm that the applicant has not been convicted of a crime of public corruption. Under AB 1560 defines “crime of public corruption” by the same standards as Elections code section 20, which states that no person can be considered a candidate to be elected to state or local office if that have been convicted specific felonies related to misuse or theft of public funds.

Existing Law:

Under the Political Reform Act of 1974, individual lobbyists must file a lobbyist certification with the Secretary of State as part of a lobbying firm’s or lobbyist employer’s registration. Lobbyist certifications must include identifying information, a photograph, acknowledgment of ethical prohibitions, and verification of completion (or conditional completion) of required ethics training. Violations of the Act are misdemeanors, and individuals convicted of violations may be prohibited from acting as lobbyists for a specified period. However, existing law does

not prohibit individuals convicted of crimes of public corruption from registering or continuing to serve as lobbyists and does not require lobbyist certifications to affirmatively disclose the absence of such convictions.

Problem:

Lobbyists play a critical role in influencing public policy and legislative decision-making. Allowing individuals convicted of crimes of public corruption to serve as lobbyists undermines public trust in the integrity of government and the legislative process. In recent years, California has seen several prominent public corruption cases, however, there have been over 500 public corruption convictions over the last ten years. Current law does not provide a clear, permanent prohibition on individuals with serious public corruption convictions from engaging in lobbying activities which creates a gap in accountability and transparency in California.

Solution:

AB 1560 closes that gap by prohibiting individuals convicted of crimes of public corruption from acting as lobbyists. It bars the Secretary of State from accepting lobbyist certifications from such individuals, automatically voids an existing certification upon conviction, and requires all lobbyist certifications to include a statement affirming that the applicant has not been convicted of a crime of public corruption. As previously mentioned, California holds potential



DAVID TANGIPA

CA STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER | 8TH DISTRICT



candidates running for office to these standards. By doing so, the bill reinforces ethical standards, promotes public confidence in government decision-making, and advances the transparency and integrity goals of the Political Reform Act of 1974.

Contact:

Belle Castro – Legislative Director
Office of Asm. Tangipa
Belle.Castro@asm.ca.gov
916-319-2008