

# LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIVISION

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## Meaningful Public Access to Lobbying Spending Reports (24P-02)

### Commissioner of Political Practices

**Audit Objectives** *(what the audit intends to accomplish or questions auditors will answer):*

Does the Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP) make timely and complete lobbying spending information available to the public in a user-friendly way?

**Audit Scope** *(the boundary of the audit & subject matter auditors will assess):*

Key aspects of the COPP's lobbying program are the registration of lobbyists and principals (entities that hire lobbyists) as well as the reporting of lobbying spending. This audit will focus on the lobbying spending reporting requirement. There are about 400 principals registered with the COPP who are statutorily required to report their lobbying expenses. The timeframe we will be examining is the complete reporting period of calendar years 2021-2022. Audit work will include:

- A review of laws, rules, and regulations at the state level.
- A review of COPP policies and procedures for collecting and publishing lobbying spending information.
- Interviews with a sample of other states.
- An assessment of the completeness of reported lobbying information.
- A review of lobbying reports to determine the timeliness of their filing.
- An evaluation of the public's user experience of the COPP's databases that make lobbying spending reports available.