

## **State Ethics Commission State Documents**

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Finding aid written in English

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Forum Building  
607 South Drive  
Harrisburg, PA, 17120

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## Summary Information

**Repository:** Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

**Creator:** Pennsylvania. State Ethics Commission

**Title:** State Ethics Commission State Documents

**Identifier:** ETHICS

**Date:** 1978 - Present

**Date:** Majority of material found within 2000 - Present

**Physical Description:** 35 Megabytes (10 PDF files)

**Language of** English

**Materials:**

## Scope and Contents

The State Ethics Commission is responsible for administering and enforcing the provisions of the Public Official and Employee Ethics Law, which states that public office is a public trust and any effort to realize personal financial gain through public office is a violation of that trust. The Commission's powers and duties include: render opinions to present and former public officials and public employees as to their obligations under the Ethics Act; the Lobbying Disclosure Law, The State Horse Racing Commission (Act 114 of 2016), Gaming Act, Video Gaming Act and the Medical Marijuana Act; investigate alleged violations of the Ethics Act, and the Lobbying Disclosure Law; receive and review Financial Interest Statements of persons required to file; prescribe rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the Ethics Act; prescribe financial disclosure forms for filing; make statements available for public inspection and copying; maintain a master index of statements filed with the Commission; accept and file information voluntarily supplied that exceeds the requirements of the Act; enforce the reporting and registration provisions of the Lobbying Disclosure Law; and maintain a list of all public officials and executive-level public employees under the Gaming Act, Act 114 of 2016, the Video Gaming Act and the Medical Marijuana Act. The Commission administers the statements of financial interest made by holders of (1) elected or appointed public office, including candidates, except advisory boards that neither spend public funds nor otherwise exercise the power of the State or political subdivision thereof, and (2) public employment (excluding teaching) which involves responsibility, to the level of personal judgment, for official actions regarding contracting, procurement, administering grants or subsidies, planning, zoning, inspecting, licensing, regulating, auditing, or other activities where official actions have more than a minimal economic impact. The statements are meant to assure that such persons have neither a conflict of interest nor the appearance of a conflict of interest with the public trust.

The publications of the State Ethics Commission contain annual reports. Selected topics from these publications include lobbying disclosures and ethical violations. The bulk of the current material is dated from 2000 to present.

## Biographical / Historical

The State Ethics Commission was created by Act 170 of 1978 and amended by Act 9 of 1989. In 2006, with the enactment of the Lobbying Disclosure Law and amendments to the Race Horse Development and

Gaming Act, the Ethics Commission was vested with additional duties. In 2016, with the enactment of the Medical Marijuana Act, the Commission was vested with additional duties. Also in 2017, with the enactment of the Video Gaming Act, the Commission was vested with additional duties.

## **General**

To access online rulings of the State Ethics Commission, visit:

<https://www.ethicsrulings.pa.gov/WebLink/Browse.aspx?id=1&dbid=0&repo=Ethics>

State Ethics Commission rulings can be accessed by type of ruling, date ruling appeared, and individual ruling report.

## **Other Finding Aids**

For more information concerning the records of the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission at the Pennsylvania State Archives, please visit:

<https://gencat.eloquent-systems.com/pennsylvania-state-archives/permalink.html?key=class184>.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Publication Statement**

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

- Pennsylvania Politics and government
- Political ethics
- Politics and government
- State government publications