

# State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board



## Settlement Offer Schedule for Lobbying Law Violations

This document sets out authorized settlement offers for lobbying law violations, in lieu of pursuing court action. It includes recommended settlement amounts for specific situations. The Board's authority to make settlement offers is set out in Wis. Stat. §5.05(1)(c). The Board may specify penalties for certain offenses and may compromise and settle those matters without formal investigation per Wis. Stat. § 5.05(2m)(c) 12. If a lobbying principal or lobbyist chooses not to accept a settlement offer, the Board may bring a civil action and seek the maximum forfeitures provided by law, including costs and attorneys' fees. If there appears to be an intentional violation of law, the matter may be brought to the Board for further action.

The Board's primary interest is providing timely and accurate lobbying information to the public, and collection of civil penalties is secondary. When addressing violations, Board staff will consider mitigating or exacerbating circumstances, and may adjust penalties accordingly.

1. Late filing of semi-annual lobbying report (§13.68) – maximum penalty \$5,000

Days Late	First Offense	Second or Greater Offense
2 business days	No penalty	Warning
3-5 days	Warning	\$50
6-15 days	Warning	\$100
16-29 days	\$50	\$250
30+ days	\$100	\$500

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Government Accountability Board, March 4, 2015.

2. Lobbying principals are required by *Wis. Stat. §13.67(1)* to report each legislative proposal, budget bill subject, or lobbying topic through the Eye On Lobbying website within 15 days of the first communication on that matter. The penalties for late reporting of lobbying activity is outlined in *Wis. Stat. §13.69 (2m)*. A principal who fails to comply may be required to forfeit up to \$25 for the first offense within a three-year period and up to \$100 for a second and subsequent offense within three years from the first violation.

LATE REPORTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL EFFORT	FORFEITURE
1 <sup>st</sup> OCCURRENCE OF LATE REPORTED INTEREST	<10%	Warning
	>=10%	\$25 per Interest
2 <sup>nd</sup> OCCURRENCE OF LATE REPORTED INTEREST	<10%	\$50 per Interest
	>=10%	\$100 per Interest
3 <sup>rd</sup> OR GREATER OCCURRENCE OF LATE REPORTED INTEREST	ANY	\$100 per Interest

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Government Accountability Board, April 29, 2015.