



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS  
LANSING

**THE COMMERCIAL USE PROHIBITION  
UNDER THE LOBBY REGISTRATION ACT  
(MCL 4.411 – MCL 4.431)**

The commercial use of information obtained under the Lobby Registration Act is prohibited under section 11(3) of the Act:

“Information copied from registration forms or activity reports required by this act from lists compiled from the forms or reports may not be sold or utilized by any person for any commercial purpose. A person who violates this subsection is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000.00.”

The commercial use prohibition is clarified in two interpretive statements issued by the Department of State under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. The first was issued to Mr. Mark J. Bertler on February 6, 1986. An additional interpretive statement was issued to Mr. J. Blair Richardson, Jr. on November 13, 1995. The general conclusions of these interpretive statements are provided below.

## General Conclusions

- A for-profit corporation **may not** use information obtained from statements or reports filed with the Secretary of State under the Lobby Registration Act to solicit individual contributor for any commercial purpose.
- A for-profit corporation **may not** use information obtained from statements or reports filed with the Secretary of State under the MCFA for the purpose of publishing and reselling the contributor information, whether in its original format or in a reprocessed format, to a person who uses, or intends to use, the information to for any commercial purpose.
- A corporation **may** publish and sell contributor information obtained form reports filed with the Secretary of State under the MCFA to a person who uses, or intends to use, the information to solicit or for other than commercial purposes.

Any questions may be directed to this office.