

2020 Lobbyist Registration Audit of Ben Stewart

FINDING(S)

- 1. Ben Stewart failed to timely register for two employers.**

EMPLOYER(S)

- 21st District Recovery Court
- ACS Commercial Roofing
- Schneider Electric
- Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council

REGISTRATION(S)

Ben Stewart registered as a lobbyist for four employers during 2020. Based on the audit documentation, Ben Stewart timely registered lobbying relationships with two employers. The remaining two relationships appear to have been registered late. The details of these registrations are in the subsequent paragraphs.

ACS Commercial Roofing

Ben Stewart contracted with ACS Commercial Roofing for lobbying services for 2020. The contract commenced in 2019 and lobbying relationship is continuing from the prior year. Thus, the lobbyist had to register by January 8, 2020 to be within seven days as required by statute. The lobbyist did not register until January 10, 2020, 2 days late.

Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council

Ben Stewart contracted with Tennessee Renewable Energy & Economic Development Council for lobbying services for 2020. The contract commenced in 2019 and lobbying relationship is continuing from the prior year. Thus, the lobbyist had to register by January 8, 2020 to be within seven days as required by statute. The lobbyist did not register until January 10, 2020, 2 days late.

Based on review of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records, Ben Stewart paid all registration fees

LOBBYING AGREEMENT(S)

Based on a review of the audit documentation provided, Ben Stewart was a contracted lobbyist who had written contracts or letters of understanding with three employer(s). The terms of the contracts appear to be within the statutes for lobbying activities including having no terms for contingency payments based on lobbying success.

Based on a review of the statements of the employer of the lobbyist, Ben Stewart was a volunteer lobbyist for one employer. The employer had no employment contract with the lobbyist employee and paid no compensation; therefore, the volunteer lobbyist received no contingency payments based on lobbying success for this employer.

FAMILY OR BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Ben Stewart reported no business or familial relationships with persons who were officials in the legislative branch or officials in the executive branch.

TRAINING

Based on review of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records, Ben Stewart completed the required lobbyist training for the 2020 registration year and paid all training fees.