

THE CITY OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Notice of Adoption of Amendments to Chapter 1 of Title 51 of the Rules of the City of New York Governing Lobbying

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN the Office of the City Clerk (the "City Clerk") by Section 48 of the New York City Charter and Section 3-212 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York (the "Administrative Code") and in accordance with the requirements of Section 1043 of the New York City Charter, of the adoption by the City Clerk of amendments to Chapter 1 of Title 51 of the Rules of the City of New York §§ 1-03(c), 1-11(c)(2), and (3).

This rule was proposed and published on July 15, 2022. The required public hearing was held on August 18, 2022.

Statement of Basis and Purpose of Proposed Rule

New York City Administrative Code § 3-211 *et seq.*, regulates the conduct of lobbyists and their clients. Pursuant to the Administrative Code, every lobbyist has a duty to file a statement of registration with the City Clerk's Office. In implementing these requirements, the rules of the City Clerk require lobbyists and clients to enroll in e-Lobbyist. Section 1-03 of the City Clerk's rules sets forth the applicable deadlines for lobbyists and clients to enroll in e-Lobbyist, and section 3-213 of the Administrative Code sets forth the deadline for lobbyists to file their statements of registration. *See* 51 RCNY § 1-03(a)(1) and (2); Admin. Code § 3-213(a)(2).

Paragraphs 2 and 3 of subdivision (c) of section 1-11 of title 51 of the Rules of the City of New York grant lobbyists and clients an automatic extension when a filing is late due to the client's or the lobbyist's failure to enroll in e-Lobbyist. The extension remains in place until two days after the client or the lobbyist enrolls in e-Lobbyist, or until an administrative enrollment has been completed on the client's or lobbyist's behalf. As a substantive matter, the length of this extension can be virtually unlimited because the client or lobbyist may in some cases by very delayed in enrolling in e-Lobbyist. Moreover, the automatic filing extension is not only unlimited but leaves room for potential misuse, and accordingly this rule removes it. Filers are afforded the opportunity to request administrative enrollments and filing extensions when they are unable to file requisite reports due to a late enrollment. These alternative remedies render the unlimited enrollment extensions provided by 51 RCNY § 1-11(c)(2) and (3) unnecessary.

New material is underlined.

[Deleted material is contained in brackets.]

Section 1. Subdivision (c) of section 1-03 of chapter 1 of Title 51 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

§ 1-03 e-Lobbyist Enrollment.

- (c) Non-Enrollment Extension. If a lobbyist's client or a client's lobbyist fails to enroll by the applicable deadline, such lobbyist or client must request an extension to file any Report pursuant to section 1-11(a)(1) of the Rules. [If such lobbyist or client fails to timely request an extension, the Report will be deemed late if the Report is filed after the filing deadline set forth in sections 1-11(c)(2) and (3) of the Rules.]
- § 2. Subdivision (c) of section 1-11 of chapter 1 of Title 51 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended to read as follows:

§ 1-11 Extension of a Filing Deadline.

- (c) Automatic Extensions.
- (1) If the filing deadline of a Report falls on a Saturday, Sunday or City holiday, the filing deadline will be extended to the following business day.
- [(2) If a statement of registration cannot be filed due to the client's failure to enroll in e-Lobbyist pursuant to section 1-03 of the Rules, and an extension, as set forth in section 1-03(c) of the Rules, has not been requested, the filing deadline of the statement of registration will be extended to two (2) business days after the date the client enrolls or an administrative enrollment has been completed on the client's behalf.]
- [(3) If a client annual report cannot be filed due to the lobbyist's failure to enroll in e-Lobbyist pursuant to section 1-03 of the Rules, and an extension, as set forth in section 1-03(c) of the Rules, has not been requested, the filing deadline of the client annual report will be extended to two (2) business days after the date the lobbyist enrolls or an administrative enrollment has been completed on the lobbyist's behalf.]
- [(4)] (2) If there is a system-wide problem with e-Lobbyist the City Clerk will notify all filers of such problem and the filing deadline may be extended to a date established by the City Clerk upon consideration of the nature and length of the system-wide problem.