

PENNSYLVANIA

INTRODUCTION

The State Ethics Commission has jurisdiction over elected and appointed executive branch officials, employees of the executive branch who are responsible for taking or recommending official action, and state legislators. [65 Pa. Cons. Stat. §§ 1102, 1101.1\(c\)](#).

SCOPE OF SANCTIONS

Personnel Actions – The Commission does not have the authority to issue personnel actions. [State Ethics Commission: Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Injunctions – Order the respondent to make restitution or impose a monetary penalty in the form of a sum of money equal to three times the amount of the financial gain resulting in violation of the Act. [65 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 1109 \(c\)](#). The Commission may also direct an individual to cease and desist from engaging in a particular activity deemed to be in contravention of the act; or take specified action to bring himself in compliance with the act. [51 Pa. Code § 21.30\(1\)](#). [65 Pa. Cons. Stat. §§ 1107\(13\)](#),

Fines – Fine of \$25 a day, up to \$250, for late filing of financial disclosure report. 65 Pa. Cons. Stat. § [1109\(f\)](#).

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS for 2016, 2017, and 2018, if available

1. How many complaints were filed?

2016 – 340 complaints were filed.¹
 2017 – 457 complaints were filed.²
 2018 – 462 complaints were filed.³

2. How many complaints were dismissed?

2016 – 299 cases were dismissed.⁴
 2017 – 290 cases were dismissed.⁵
 2018 – 410 cases were dismissed.⁶

3. How many cases were resolved with a finding of no ethics violation?

2016 – 0 cases were resolved with a finding of no ethics violation.⁷
 2017 – 0 cases were resolved with a finding of no ethics violation.⁸
 2018 – 2 cases were resolved with a finding of no ethics violation.⁹

4. How many cases were resolved with a finding of an ethics violation?

2016 – 20 cases were resolved with a finding of an ethics violation.¹⁰
 2017 – 21 cases were resolved with a finding of an ethics violation.¹¹

2018 – 19 cases were resolved with a finding of an ethics violation.¹²

5. What sanction was adopted?

2016 – Fines were adopted totaling \$107,753.50 for ethics violations.¹³

2017 – Fines were adopted totaling \$207,676.09 for ethics violations.¹⁴

2018 – Fines were adopted totaling \$107,890.32 for ethics violations.¹⁵

ARE THE DECISIONS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE?

Yes – the decisions are publicly available and published on the commission’s website.¹⁶

SOURCES

Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission, 2016 Annual Report,
<https://www.ethics.pa.gov/Documents/Publications%20Library/Annual%20Reports/2016%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission, 2017 Annual Report,
<https://www.ethics.pa.gov/Documents/Publications%20Library/Annual%20Reports/2017%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission, [E-library Database](#)

Email Correspondence with Brian Jacisin, Deputy Executive Director, State Ethics Commission, on June 5, 2019.

NOTES

As of June 30, 2019, the Commission had not published its 2018 Annual Report.

The total number of complaints filed in 2016 and 2017 includes cases related to lobbying. We were not able to exclude lobbying from the totals, but the number of violations reflect only ethics matters.

We were only able to exclude cases pertaining to lobbyists in question 4 of this report. All other statistics include information related to lobbyists.

¹ 2016 Annual Report, p. 15

² 2017 Annual Report, p. 14

³ Email Correspondence with Brian Jacisin, Deputy Executive Director, State Ethics Commission, on June 5, 2019. This statistics include lobbying violations.

⁴ Email Correspondence with Brian Jacisin, Deputy Executive Director, State Ethics Commission, on June 5, 2019.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ 2016 Annual Report, p. 15. This does not include the 12 lobbying orders issued.

¹¹ 2017 Annual Report, p. 14. This does not include the 12 lobbying orders issued.

¹² Email Correspondence with Brian Jacisin, Deputy Executive Director, State Ethics Commission, on June 5, 2019.

¹³ 2016 Annual Report, p. 15.

¹⁴ Email Correspondence with Brian Jacisin, Deputy Executive Director, State Ethics Commission, on June 5, 2019.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Complaint Database