
JOINT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

- Specifies that the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC) and the Office of Legislative Inspector General are not occupational licensing boards.
- Specifies that a registration to be a legislative agent, retirement system lobbyist, or executive agency lobbyist is not a license.
- Prevents occupational licensing provisions of H.B. 263 of the 133rd General Assembly, which take effect October 9, 2021, from applying to these registrations, thereby allowing JLEC to continue to prohibit registration of persons convicted of specified offenses and automatically ban a person from serving as a legislative agent, retirement system lobbyist, or executive agency lobbyist if convicted of specified offenses.

JLEC registrations

(R.C. 9.78, 9.79, 101.721, 101.921, 121.621, and 4798.01; Sections 130.20 to 130.28)

The act specifies that the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC) and the Office of Legislative Inspector General are not occupational licensing boards. Additionally, the act specifies that the registration to be a legislative agent, retirement system lobbyist, or executive agency lobbyist is not a license.

Accordingly, it prevents provisions of [H.B. 263 of the 133rd General Assembly](#), known as the “Fresh Start Act,” that take effect October 9, 2021, from applying to these registrations. Generally, the “Fresh Start Act,” prohibits any state licensing authority from refusing to issue an initial license or other authorization to a person to engage in any profession, occupation, or occupational activity regulated by the licensing authority as a result of being convicted of certain offenses.

Therefore, the act preserves JLEC’s ability to prohibit registration of persons convicted of specified offenses and automatically ban a person from serving as a legislative agent, retirement system lobbyist, or executive agency lobbyist if:

- The person is convicted of bribery, intimidation, retaliation, theft in office, unlawful interest in a public contract, engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, or conspiracy, complicity, or an attempt to commit any of those offenses; or
- The person is convicted of, while holding any government public office and the offense was in relation to their official duties, tampering with records, intimidation of attorney, victim, or witness, perjury, tampering with evidence, obstructing official business, obstructing justice, conspiracy, complicity, or an attempt to commit any of those offenses.