



# **A BILL TO REGULATE LOBBYING IS INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS**



**Boletín PHRLegal**

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Last July 24, 2024, Bill 038 of 2024, “Whereby the exercise of lobbying is regulated, the Public Registry is created and the decision-making process in the public sector is guaranteed” was presented to Congress. This bill seeks to regulate lobbying with respect to the decision-making process of the executive and legislative branches.

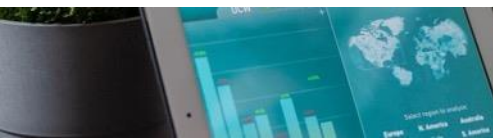


Within the provisions of the project, lobbying is defined as the activity developed by individuals and legal entities, which aims to promote and influence legitimate interests and objectives in the decision-making process of public authorities. It is intended to ensure that lobbying is carried out in a professional, ethical and transparent manner, respecting the principles and guidelines established in the Constitution and the laws of Colombia.

Thus, it seeks to establish equality, transparency and integrity as guiding principles for this activity, to ensure that all interested parties have equal access to information. Based on these principles, the bill seeks to require clear and timely disclosure of lobbying activities and promotes ethical conduct among public officials and lobbyists. These principles are fundamental to prevent undue influence on the decision making of public officials and to ensure that the lobbying process is aligned with the nation's legal and ethical standards.

Another key component of this bill is the incorporation of the Public Registry of Lobbyists (“RPC”), an electronic registry administered by the Public Defender's Office, in which all individuals and entities interested in engaging in lobbying activities in Colombia must be registered. This registry will be accessible to the public and free of charge, allowing any citizen to consult information related to lobbyists, their clients and the activities they carry out.

The RPC will include detailed information on each lobbyist, such as its name, identification, address, and the sector or client it represents. In addition, lobbyists shall update this information every six months or when there are significant developments that need to be reported.



Furthermore, Bill 038 of 2024 establishes a series of obligations for lobbyists, including mandatory registration, periodic updating of information, and compliance with high standards of professionalism and transparency in their activities. It also establishes some prohibitions against the activity, among them, public officials are prohibited from lobbying, except in exceptional cases specified in the law.

The bill includes a catalogue of sanctions for those who fail to comply with the provisions of the law, ranging from blocking access to the registry to disqualification from lobbying activities for periods ranging from five to ten years. These measures seek to ensure that lobbying is carried out in a responsible manner and in accordance with the established norms.



This bill represents a significant step towards the regulation of lobbying in Colombia, seeking to promote transparency, equity and integrity in public decision making. With the implementation of this regulatory framework, it is envisioned that lobbying in Colombia will be conducted in a more orderly and transparent manner.

The bill will continue its legislative process in the next sessions of Congress, where it will be debated and adjusted according to the observations and contributions of legislators, civil society organizations and citizens in general.

## Contact

In case of any doubts regarding the new regulations or to request further counseling on these matters, please contact:

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