

**PERD's Objectives:**

To determine whether the Ethics Commission trained lobbyists and public officials on the provisions of the Ethics Act, to determine if the Ethics Commission conducted lobbyist compliance audits in accordance with law and rule, and to evaluate the Ethics Commission's website for the incorporation of the standard content for websites that are required by W. Va. Code §5F-1-7 as well its user-friendliness and transparency.

**Key Recommendations:**

*The Ethics Commission should ensure that all registered lobbyists take the required ethics training during the respective two-year registration period.*

*The Ethics Commission should discontinue the practice of allowing registered lobbyists to complete their ethics training prior to an upcoming registration cycle.*

*The Ethics Commission should not register lobbyists for a new registration cycle if the lobbyist has not completed the training for the concluding registration cycle.*

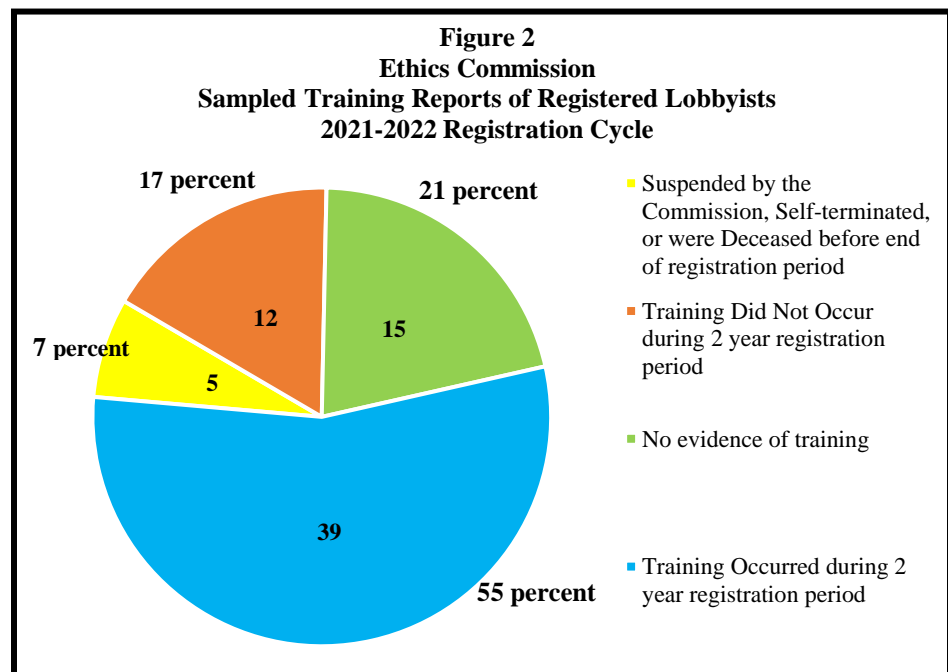
**September 2025**

**Performance Review: Ethics Commission**

**Agency Purpose:** The purpose of the Ethics Commission (Commission), as established in West Virginia Code Chapter 6B, Article 2, is to enforce and administer the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act.

**What Did PERD Find?**

- The Commission enforces the requirement that lobbyists report their lobbying activity, with 97 percent of required reports being submitted.
- With respect to training, 55 percent of the sampled lobbyists completed their required ethics training during the registration cycle. Seventeen (17) percent of the sampled lobbyists completed ethics training, but it was not during the appropriate registration cycle. However, 21 percent of the sampled lobbyists had no evidence of training for the 2021-2022 registration cycle. An additional seven percent did not complete the mandatory ethics training, but these lobbyists had either self-terminated their lobbyist registration or the Commission suspended their registration.



- The Commission generally conducts lobbyist compliance audits in compliance with W. Va. Code. However, while the Commission determined the number of lobbyist compliance audits it would conduct in 2021 through 2024, through a resolution in a public meeting, it did not do so in 2018, 2019, 2020.
- The Commission provides elected and gubernatorially designated public officials training on the requirements of the Ethics Act.
- The Commission's website complies with statutorily required content and contains other features that enhance user-friendliness and transparency.