

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
) IN THE MATTER OF:
) COMPLAINT C2014-016
) State Ethics Commission,
) Complainant;
) vs.) **DECISION AND ORDER**
) Emerson B. Read, Sr.,
) Respondent.
_____)

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

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RECEIVED

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Commission on August 1, 2013. On September 18, 2013, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2012), the State Ethics Commission reviewed the above-captioned complaint charging Respondent, Emerson B. Read, Sr., with a violation of Section 2-17-30 and probable cause was found.

Present at the Hearing on March 19, 2014 were Commission Members, Phillip Florence, Jr., Chair, E. Kay Biermann Brohl, and James I. Warren. Respondent was not present, but duly noticed. Complainant was represented by Cathy L. Hazelwood, General Counsel. The following charge was considered:

COUNT ONE
FAILURE TO FILE A LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE REPORT
SECTION 2-17-30, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That the Respondent, Emerson B. Read, a registered lobbyist in 2011 for Nohometax.org, did fail to file a Lobbyist Disclosure statement for the June 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 reporting period by the January 31, 2012 deadline in

violation of Section 2-17-30.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Having carefully reviewed the evidence presented, the Commission finds as fact

1. The Respondent, Emerson B. Read, Sr., was a registered lobbyist in 2011 for Nohometax.org and he was required to file lobbyist disclosure.

2. On August 6, 2013 a Commission investigator contacted Respondent's wife by telephone. She advised that her husband was in the hospital; however, she would contact her husband's secretary concerning the late Lobbyist Disclosure statement (LD).

3. On August 8, 2013 the Respondent complied by filing the relevant LD. The outstanding penalty of \$1,900.00 was paid on February 20, 2014.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Emerson B. Read, Sr., was a registered lobbyist, as defined by Section 2-17-10(13).

2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction

3. Section 2-17-30 provides that registered lobbyist must make periodic disclosure throughout the calendar year.

DECISION

Based upon the evidence presented, the State Ethics Commission has determined that the Respondent, Emerson B. Read, Sr., has complied by filing disclosure and paying the late filing penalty as required by the Ethics Reform Act of 1991. THEREFORE, in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i), and the rules and regulations promulgated

thereunder, the State Ethics Commission waives further proceedings.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 7th DAY OF April, 2014.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



PHILLIP FLORENCE, JR.
HEARING CHAIR

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA