



The Joint Commission on Public Ethics is soliciting informal comments on proposed amendments to the current “Outside Activity Regulations” (19 NYCRR Part 932).

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If you have comments, questions, or suggestions, please contact legal@jcope.ny.gov no later than January 30, 2015.

The current regulations govern the outside activities of State officers and employees who have been designated as policy makers by their agencies. Among other things, the regulations prohibit all covered individuals from holding certain positions in political parties and other political organizations. The regulations also require that all covered persons who are compensated for their State service on other than a *per diem* basis obtain approval from their agency and/or the Commission prior to: (i) serving on a board of a for-profit organization; (ii) holding any elective office in addition to their current State job; and (iii) undertaking employment or engaging in business ventures that generate income meeting specified thresholds.

The proposed amendments would require covered persons who serve on a board of a not-for-profit entity to notify their agency of such service even if they are not receiving compensation for this activity. Currently, the regulations require approval by the agency if the covered person is receiving at least \$1,000 a year in compensation for the board service.

Additionally, the proposed amendments would require an individual who has a previously approved outside activity request to inform his agency, on an annual basis, if he is still engaged in the approved outside activity.

The proposed amendments also increase the threshold requirement for Commission approval of certain outside activities from \$4,000 in annual compensation to \$5,000 in annual compensation.

Finally, the amendments make a number of technical and structural changes, including adding new definitions and modifying existing definitions, which are designed to clarify the current regulations.

The proposed amendments are on the Commission’s website and can be accessed through this [link](#). The document shows the amendments in a modified redline format to indicate the proposed changes to the current regulations. Brief explanations of the changes are provided below the regulatory language.

Again, the Commission is seeking input from individuals and entities that would be impacted by the proposed guidance. Please submit any comments to legal@jcope.ny.gov no later than January 30, 2015.