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AUG 10 2023

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

LOBBYIST FILING AGREEMENT

This Agreement, made this 4th day of August, 2023, by and between Eddie L. Pounds, lobbyist for Ascend Wellness Holdings, LLC, and Katherine P. Thompson, Staff Counsel to the Maryland State Ethics Commission (hereinafter "Staff Counsel").

RECITALS

The State Ethics Commission ("the Commission") is the executive agency of the State of Maryland established by Chapter 513, Acts of 1979 for the purpose of enforcing the Maryland Public Ethics Law (General Provisions Article, Title 5, Annotated Code of Maryland, hereinafter the "Ethics Law") including the provisions of Subtitle 7, the lobbying disclosure program.

Eddie L. Pounds ("the filer") is an individual whose lobbying activities on behalf of Ascend Wellness Holdings, LLC, ("the employer") for the period of March 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023, required registration as a lobbyist with the Commission.

The filer did not timely register as required by the Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art., § 5-704(d)(1)(Supp. 2022).

The filer subsequently registered on July 27, 2023, for the period of March 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023.

The filer was required to submit the Lobbying Activity Report by May 31, 2023, for the period of March 1, 2023 through April 30, 2023, as required by § 5-705(a)(1)(i) of the Ethics Law, and failed to submit the required report in a timely manner.

On August 1, 2023, the filer submitted the delinquent Lobbying Activity Report for the period of March 1, 2023 through April 30, 2023.


The filer is entering voluntarily into this Agreement to admit their failure to timely file their Lobbying Registration and Lobbying Activity Report with the Commission and to pay a sum of money in lieu of potential late filing fees and other fines pursuant to § 5-405 of the Ethics Law.


NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the submission of the required Lobbying Registration by the filer on July 27, 2023, and the Lobbying Activity Report by the filer on August 1, 2023, and the admissions and agreements herein contained, the filer and Staff Counsel stipulate and agree as follows:

1. The filer did not timely file their lobbyist registration form on behalf of the employer for the period of March 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023, as required by § 5-704(d)(1) of the Ethics Law.
2. The filer did not timely file their Lobbying Activity Report on behalf of the employer for the period of March 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023, as required by § 5-705(a)(1)(i) of the Ethics Law.

3. The filer reported their delinquency to the Commission on July 27, 2023, and filed their registration form the same day, and then filed their Lobbying Activity Report on August 1, 2023 (a copy of each form has been attached hereto and made a part thereof).
4. The filer understands that failure to comply with the lobbying disclosure provisions of the Ethics Law may subject them to a formal complaint by the Commission and, upon finding of a violation, late fees and the possibility of civil fines.
5. Based on the facts stated in this Agreement, the filer agrees to pay as settlement of the late filing matters, the amount of TWO HUNDRED and no/100 DOLLARS (\$200.00) at the time of the execution of this Agreement in lieu of potential late fees and in lieu of civil fines for the above admitted late Lobbying Registration and Lobbying Activity Report.
6. The Staff Counsel will, upon execution of this Agreement by the filer, recommend that the Commission not institute any proceedings on their failure to timely file their Lobbying Registration and Lobbying Activity Report. The filer understands that the Commission is under no obligation to accept this Agreement and may decide to take other action, including issuing a complaint.
7. The filer waives a formal hearing on this matter (if the Agreement is accepted by the Commission) to which they would be entitled if a complaint were issued, and they understand that this Agreement and materials relating to this matter are not subject to the confidentiality provisions of the Ethics Law, and will be public information unless otherwise protected.
8. The filer understands that a copy of this Agreement will be provided to the employer.
9. The filer and the Staff Counsel have entered into this Agreement for the sole purpose of resolving the late submission of a Lobbying Registration and Lobbying Activity Report and for the payment of late fees and other fines and for no other purpose.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Eddie L. Pounds, lobbyist, and Katherine P. Thompson, Staff Counsel to the State Ethics Commission, have hereunto set their hands.


Katherine P. Thompson, Staff Counsel
State Ethics Commission
45 Calvert Street, 3rd Floor
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 260-7770


Eddie L. Pounds
Lobbyist for
Ascend Wellness Holdings, LLC

Accepted by the Commission



Craig D. Roswell, Chair
for the Commission

Date: 9/7, 2023



Lobbying Registration

Maryland State Ethics Commission | 45 Calvert Street, 3rd Floor, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Form ID: **R016813** Submission Date: **07/27/23**

Registrant Information

Individual Registrant	
Name of Registrant: Eddie L. Pounds	Business Phone: 410-382-2193
Organization: Perry White Ross & Jacobson	Cell Phone: 410-382-2193
Address: 54 State Circle, Annapolis, MD, 21401	

1. Are there any other individuals who are required to register on behalf of the registrant: Eddie L. Pounds?

Note: These individuals will still be required to submit their own registrations.

No

2. Are you in compliance with the mandatory training requirements of the Public Ethics Law?

Yes, I certify that I am current in my training status.

Date of most recent training:

11/02/21

Employer Information

1. Identify the employer that compensates the registrant for lobbying activities under this registration.

Employer of Registrant	
Organization: Ascend Wellness Holdings, LLC	Website:
Nature of Business: Cannabis	Phone: 413-636-8665
Address: 1411 Broadway, Fl 16, New York, NY, 10018	

2. Does your employer claim an exemption from filing its own registration and activity reports?

Yes

3. Is the employer organized for the primary purpose of attempting to influence any legislation or executive action?

No

4. In the course of representing this employer, will you also be representing other entities from which you will not be receiving compensation and are not required to register on their behalf?

No

Lobbying Period & Purpose

1. Within a lobbying year, state the period for which this registration is effective. Include both a start and an end date.

Registration Period:

Custom Dates: 03/01/2023 - 10/31/2023

2. What type of lobbying registration are you seeking?

Legislative Action, Executive Action

3. Identify the subject matters on which the registrant expects to act, or employ someone to act during the registration period. You must identify at least one subject matter and you may select up to five.

#	Subject Matter	Description
1	Other	Cannabis

Authorization to Lobby

The registrant is authorized to act on behalf of the employer identified above, for the period specified and as to the matters selected herein unless this authority is terminated sooner. This authorization has been granted by the representative disclosed below:

Name of Authorizer: **Caitlin Fleishman**

Title: **Director**

Email: **cfleishman@awholdings.com**

Phone: **413-636-8665**

Address: **1411 Broadway, Floor 16, New York, NY, 10018**

Affirmation Provision

I hereby make oath or affirm under the penalties of perjury that I am authorized to engage in lobbying activity on behalf of the employer: Ascend Wellness Holdings, LLC, for the period specified and as to the matters selected herein, unless this authority is terminated sooner. This authorization has been granted to me by the representative: Caitlin Fleishman. I acknowledge that my electronic signature subjects me to the penalties of perjury to the same extent as an oath or affirmation made before an individual authorized to administer oaths, and swear that the contents of this registration are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

E-signature: **Eddie L. Pounds 07/27/23**



Activity Report

Maryland State Ethics Commission | 45 Calvert Street, 3rd Floor, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Form ID: **A029218** Submission Date: **08/01/23**

Part A. General Information

Identification of Registrant / Regulated Lobbyist

A1. Identify the registrant that conducted lobbying activities during the reporting period.

Individual Registrant	
Name of Registrant: Eddie L. Pounds	Business Phone: 410-382-2193
Organization: Perry White Ross & Jacobson	Cell Phone: 410-382-2193
Address: 54 State Circle, Annapolis, MD, 21401	

A2. Was any other individual required to register as a lobbyist on behalf of the registrant: Eddie L. Pounds

No

Identification of Employer

A3. Identify the employer that compensated the registrant for lobbying activities during the reporting period.

Employer of Registrant	
Organization: Ascend Wellness Holdings, LLC	Website:
Nature of Business: Cannabis	Phone: 413-636-8665
Address: 1411 Broadway, FI 16, New York, NY, 10018	

A4. Does your employer claim an exemption from filing its own registration and activity reports?

Yes, Exempt

A5. Did you represent any other entity with regard to the matters covered by registration to this employer?

No

Reporting Period

A6. State the registration period during which you represent your employer and the reporting period for which this activity report is effective. If you terminate services with your employer anytime before the conclusion of the reporting period, you must include a termination date.

Registration Period:
03/01/23-10/31/23

Activity Report:
Activity Report 1/2

Reporting Period:
03/01/23-04/30/23

Lobbying Subject Matters

A7. Identify the subject matters that pertain to lobbying activities conducted during the reporting period on behalf of your employer. You must identify at least one subject matter and you may select up to five.

#	Subject Matter	Description
1	Other	Cannabis

A8. Did you engage in lobbying activity, to include but not limited to: supporting or opposing specific legislation, procurements or regulations?

Yes

Please provide more specific details (e.g. Senate or House bill numbers, procurement contracts, regulations and codes) for the matters on which you lobbied.

Matters impacting the legalization of cannabis, SB516.

Primary Purpose of the Organization

A9. Is your employer organized for the primary purpose of attempting to influence any legislation or executive action?

No

Part B. Compensation and Operating Expenditures

Compensation to Lobbyist and Staff

B1. What was the total compensation attributed to the registrant / lobbyist?

Total Compensation: \$14,000.00

B2. Was the amount prorated because the registrant / lobbyist was compensated for services in addition to lobbying activities?

No

B3. What was the total for salaries, compensation and reimbursed expenses paid to staff related to lobbying services for this employer?

Total Expenses: \$0.00

Operating Expenses

B4. Did you or your employer incur any additional office expenses not reported above as "Compensation"?

No

B5. Did you or your employer incur any cost for professional and technical research and assistance not reported as "Compensation"?

No

B6. Did you or your employer incur any expenses for publications or other costs (Grassroots expenses) related to expressly encouraging persons to communicate with officials or employees?

No

B7. Did you pay any fee or incur any expenses for witnesses who were engaged to appear on behalf of your employer?

No

B8. Did you incur any other expenses for this employer not otherwise accounted for above?

No

Part B. Total Compensation & Operating Expenses:

\$14,000.00

Part C. Event Expenditures

Sponsored Events

C1. Did you or your employer incur expenses for special events, including dinners and receptions, entertainment and other functions to which all members of the General Assembly, either house thereof, all members of any standing committee or all members of a formally recognized county or regional delegation have received written invitations.

No

Tickets to Events

C2. Did you or your employer incur any expense for a ticket or free admission for any members of the General Assembly to attend charitable, cultural or political events?

No

Total Ticket Expenses: **\$0.00**

Part D. Meals, Beverages and Related Expenditures

Meals and Beverages at Legislative Meetings

D1. Did you or your employer incur any expenses for food and beverages received by any member(s) of the General Assembly at approved legislative organization meetings?

No

Total Legislative Meeting Expenses: **\$0.00**

Meals and Beverages in Return for a Speaking Engagement

D2. Did you or your employer incur any expenses for food, lodging, or scheduled entertainment of officials and employees for a meeting which were given in return for participation in a panel or speaking engagement at a meeting?

No

Total Speaking Engagement Expenses: **\$0.00**

Meals and Beverages to Officials, Employees or their Immediate Families

D3. Did you or your employer provide any meals and beverages for officials or employees or their immediate families, not reported above?

No

Meals and Beverages to Elected Executive Officials or their Immediate Families

D4. Did your employer, or you on behalf of your employer give any gifts or participate in the giving of any gifts of meals and beverages to elected Executive Officials or a member of the official's immediate family? Immediate family members include a spouse and any dependent children.

No

Part E. Gift Expenditures

Gifts for Officials, Employees or their Immediate Families

E1. Did you or your employer give any gifts to or for officials or employees or their immediate families, which were not reported elsewhere in this activity report? If so, enter the total amount for all gifts

No

Gifts Above the \$75 Threshold

E2. Did your employer, or you on behalf of your employer give any gifts or participate in the giving of any gifts to officials, employees or their immediate family members that meets a cumulative value of \$75 or more? Or have you provided individually to legislators, any tickets or free admission to events, with a cumulative value of \$100 or more?

No

Total Expenditures during Reporting Period:

\$14,000.00

Affirmation Provision

Submission of this activity report is required to be made under oath or affirmation. The oath or affirmation shall be confirmed by electronic signature, which is made expressly under penalties for perjury, to the same extent as an oath or affirmation made before an individual authorized to administer oaths.

I have read the disclaimer above and hereby swear and affirm that the information contained in this report is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Electronic Signature: **Eddie L. Pounds**

Date Signed: **08/01/2023**