

ETHICS REPORTER

July 2025



Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission
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Lobbying Reporting Deadline- September 15, 2025

The Code of Legislative Ethics requires all lobbyists and employers to file their updated registration statements on the 15th day of January, February, March, April, May, and September of each year. We appreciate the timeliness and diligence shown by the filers. These disclosure statements enable the public, legislators, and media to ascertain the extent of legislative lobbying in the Commonwealth, an important goal at all times.

Registration statements from lobbyists and employers for the period of May 1- August 31, 2025 will be due on Monday, September 15, 2025, per KRS 6.807(3). The easiest and quickest way for lobbyists and employers to file expense forms is to visit the Commission's website at: <https://apps.klec.ky.gov/lec/onlinefiling.aspx>. Commission staff have sent every employer and lobbyist information on how to file online, or via email or fax.

Comings & Goings at the Legislative Ethics Commission

New Commission Appointment: In July 2025, Christopher Lilly was appointed to the Commission by the President of the Senate, Senator Robert Stivers. Mr. Lilly is currently a practicing lawyer in Boyle County. His prior work included working as an Attorney for the Legislative Research Commission. He was also appointed by Governor Ernie Fletcher as Executive Director of the Kentucky Alcoholic Beverage Control, Commissioner of the Department of Public Protection and was the Executive Director for the Office of Charitable Gaming. He is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky Law School. He resides in Danville, Kentucky.

Retirement: After serving nearly three decades in state government, Executive Director Emily Dennis will retire effective September 1, 2025. Congratulations Emily!!

Sad News: It is with great sadness that we report Commissioner Jeff Greer unexpectedly passed away on July 15, 2025. Mr. Greer was a former State Representative and was appointed to the Commission by the Speaker of the House in November, 2024. He was the President of Greer Insurance in Brandenburg, KY. He represented a district comprised of Meade and Hardin Counties in the Kentucky House of Representatives from 2007 until 2018. He chaired the Committee of Banking and Insurance and served as a member of the Appropriations and Revenue and Veterans and Military Affairs committees. A native of Meade County, Greer served on the Meade County School Board for 13 years prior to his legislative service. He was a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University. Our condolences go out to Mr. Greer's family.

[Training for Lobbyists and Employers on video](#)

We have not forgotten about a new training session we announce back in the May newsletter. The Commission office has been unusually busy and we are working to get the session scheduled. In the meantime, the Legislative Ethics Commission has a training video from one of our in-person lobbyist and employer trainings on the LRC Capitol Connection YouTube page, for viewing at any time. The link to the training video is on our website, and also on the LRC Capitol Connection page at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrqWW7sJDK4>. The video walks through the online filing process in step-by-step detail. Please call us with any questions or if you wish to schedule a personal training session!

[Newly-Registered and Terminated Lobbying Employers](#)

The following businesses and organizations recently registered to lobby in Kentucky: **American Flood Coalition Action, Inc., California Nurses Assn., Family & Children's Place, Geronimo Power, LLC, Junior Achievement of Kentuckiana, Light & Wonder, Inc., Magellan Health, Inc., and National Nurses United.**

The following businesses and organizations recently terminated in Kentucky: **American Rental Association, Grover Gaming, JVCKENWOOD USA Corp., New Directions Housing Corporation, and Risepoint, LLC.**

[Ethics & Lobbying News from around the U.S.](#)

[Former ComEd Lobbyist John Hooker Gets 18 Months in Prison for Role in Madigan Bribery Scheme](#)

By: Matt Masterson – **[WTTW.com](#)** - July 14, 2025, 1:30 pm

John Hooker, one of the four former Commonwealth Edison officials convicted of conspiring to bribe ex-Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan, has been sentenced to 18 months in prison.

The sentence was handed down at the Dirksen Federal Building on Monday afternoon, more than two years after Hooker and three others were found guilty of charges including bribery conspiracy and willfully falsifying the utility company's books.

U.S. District Judge Manish Shah said Hooker wasn't simply engaged in recordkeeping errors, but rather willfully participated in "secretive, sophisticated criminal corruption."

"Hiding transactions is how corruption succeeds and festers," Shah said in handing down the sentence Monday. "Refusing to say 'No, this is not how legislation should be done' ... that caused the state government to fail to live up to its promise to the people."

Hooker was also ordered to pay a fine of \$500,000 as part of his sentence.

He and his three codefendants — former ComEd CEO Anne Pramaggiore, Madigan’s longtime confidant Michael McClain, and ex-ComEd consultant Jay Doherty — were each convicted in 2023 after prosecutors alleged they had plotted to give “a continuous stream of benefits” to “corruptly influence and reward Madigan” in order to get his support on Springfield legislation that would benefit the utility company.

The four did so by arranging for ComEd to pay \$1.3 million to Madigan allies who were hired as subcontractors, but who actually did little or no work for the utility company. Madigan himself was convicted at a separate trial earlier this year and was sentenced in June to more than seven years in prison.

But rather than paying them directly, prosecutors said Hooker and others arranged for them to be paid through an intermediary — Doherty — in an effort to conceal the payments. Jurors at trial heard numerous secretly recorded conversations in which Hooker and his codefendants discussed these plans.

Hooker’s sentence is well below the recommendation from federal prosecutors that Hooker spend 56 months in prison. Hooker’s defense team had asked for a sentence of probation.

Shah said that while Hooker was an active participant in the conspiracy, he acted more as a “consultant, an advisor,” rather than someone who was lining his own pockets. He called Hooker an “average” participant, but also a “central figure” in the books and records conspiracy.

Hooker, 76, spent decades at ComEd, including serving as the company’s executive vice president of legislative and external affairs from 2008 until he retired in 2012. He then worked as an external lobbyist for ComEd until 2019, a role through which prosecutors said he remained “directly involved in ComEd’s efforts to advance its legislative agenda in Springfield.”

Hooker, who grew up in poverty on the West Side of Chicago in a family directly impacted by drugs and violence, told the court he fought his whole life to avoid being where he was Monday — in front of a judge having been convicted of a crime.

He said he prays he is not “defined by these words and this case” for the rest of his life.

“Looking back, I’ve made mistakes and listening to myself on some of those recordings was really a very humbling experience for me,” he said. “I do not like the way I sound on those recordings. Because of that, I am really sorry that that occurred.”

In one secretly recorded call obtained through a government wiretap, McClain told Hooker that in regards to the subcontractors, “We had to hire these guys because Mike Madigan came to us.”

Prosecutors said conversations like that one made clear the subcontractor payments were being made and concealed to ensure it never came to light that ComEd was paying no-show jobs to influence Madigan.

Prosecutors also claimed Hooker, who testified in his defense at trial, repeatedly lied to jurors when he denied having falsified any ComEd documents and when he claimed the subcontractor payment arrangement was done simply to keep additional management responsibilities off his plate.

Shah on Monday said that Hooker's denial that he participated in any conspiracy didn't qualify as perjury, ruling this was no different than entering his plea of not guilty and was unlikely to sway jurors one way or another.

But as for his answers about how and why he arranged the subcontractor payments the way he did, Shah found Hooker's responses here did amount to "intentionally false and material" testimony.

"The purpose — as Mr. Hooker well knew — was to bribe Mr. Madigan," Shah said.

Hooker also testified that he was "just joshing around" with McClain when they said they "had to" hire people because of Madigan. Shah found this answer too was a "clumsy lie, but a lie nonetheless."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Julia Schwartz on Monday said Hooker and his codefendants "abused the highest levels of state government in order to gain an advantage for ComEd." She said Hooker knew Madigan was using ComEd as his "personal piggy bank" and that he "happily joined that effort."

Hooker exited the courthouse without comment following the hearing. He is the first of the four to be sentenced. Pramaggiore's sentencing hearing is scheduled for July 21, followed by McClain on July 24 and Doherty on Aug. 5.

Hooker will turn himself in to authorities and begin serving his sentence Oct. 14 — one day after Madigan will begin serving his own sentence.

Idaho lawmaker worked to legalize this drug. He was among the first to sell it

By: Sarah Cutler – [MSN.com](https://www.msn.com) – July 7, 2025

In the final days of this year's legislative session, Idaho lawmakers passed a bill to allow pharmacies to sell ivermectin over the counter. Soon after, a pharmacy owned by the bill's sponsor began selling the drug.

Dubbed a "wonder drug" for its ability to treat a wide range of parasitic infections, ivermectin gained a following during the COVID-19 pandemic, with some claiming it could treat the respiratory virus.

To the extent that studies have found that ivermectin actually was effective against COVID-19, it was only in large enough doses that would cause serious side effects in humans, David Pate, the former president and CEO of St. Luke's Health System, told the Idaho Statesman in April.

Right-wing influencers advertise that it can cure a host of ills, even though the Food and Drug Administration has not approved the drug for use beyond its original anti-parasitic properties, The New York Times reported in March. Taking the drug has become an indicator of distrust in pharmaceutical companies and medical expertise - an "enduring pharmacological MAGA hat," the Times wrote.

Rep. Jordan Redman, a Coeur d'Alene Republican who owns Medicine Man Prairie Pharmacy in Hayden, disclosed - as required - in a committee hearing and on the House floor that as a pharmacy owner, he had a conflict of interest in sponsoring and voting on the legislation.

But after lawmakers make these declarations, known as Rule 80 in the House and Rule 39 in the Senate, they are still free to vote on the bills in question unless they volunteer to abstain.

Lawmakers are required only to state that they have a conflict of interest, but not to divulge the exact nature of the conflict, House Minority Leader Ilana Rubel, a Boise Democrat and attorney, previously told the Statesman.

"There's actually very little disclosure around it," she said. "The public doesn't really get a lot of insight into what exactly the conflict is." Redman, who is not a pharmacist or medical professional, did not respond to messages requesting comment for this story.

Ritchie Eppink, a constitutional rights attorney who has fought legal battles against the Legislature for years, raised concerns in a previous interview with the Statesman about the relative toothlessness of the ethics rules governing lawmakers' behavior.

"Those rules are absolutely a joke," said Eppink. "The fact that the legislators can use their office to advance legislation and policy proposals that benefit them, personally and monetarily, with just - at most - disclosing that" is a "recipe for corruption."

He declined to comment specifically on Redman's situation but said it "certainly should raise concerns and prompt us all to be asking ourselves what's happening here, and do the rules that we have ensure that this legislator, along with his colleagues, are not going to abuse the public's trust?"

There's a thin line, he acknowledged, between lawmakers sponsoring and speaking out on legislation that relates to the industry in which they work, and pursuing policy that benefits their own interests at the public's expense.

"It's one thing to say, 'I'm going to speak on this bill, because this bill has to do with building codes, and I'm a carpenter or electrician, and I have experience in that area,' " he told the Statesman by phone. "It's another thing to say, 'I want to change the building code so that I can make more money.' "

'A ton' of constituents wanted ivermectin, lawmaker says Redman told the Statesman in April that the issue hit his radar because he received "a ton of emails" from constituents who wanted to see ivermectin available over the counter, without a prescription required.

"It was late in the session, and we had already shut down the House committees, so I just ran a personal bill, just getting it out there, signaling that, you know, maybe next year, we pick this up," he said.

But House and Senate leaders were enthusiastic and wanted to push the bill through this year, he said, and it moved through both Republican-dominated chambers in little more than a day. He said he wanted to increase Idahoans' access to the drug, especially in rural parts of the state where doctors are scarce and prescriptions can be hard to come by.

Idahoans are taking the drug anyway, he said, and many are using a version from animal feed stores intended for deworming livestock. That kind doesn't come with any information about human dosages or recommended uses - because it isn't intended for their use.

The "biggest issue" right now, he said, is that "we know that Idahoans are taking it - so having them have a conversation" with a pharmacist "is probably a better solution long-term."

Pharmacy customers aren't required to speak with pharmacists to buy over-the-counter medications, so there's no guarantee any conversations will take place.

The American Pharmacists Association and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, along with groups such as the American Medical Association, have opposed the use of ivermectin to treat COVID except in clinical trials.

Medicine Man's website doesn't list a price for ivermectin. One X user, who in late May posted a picture of a bottle she purchased, said she paid \$75 for 30 3-milligram capsules.