

Revolving Door Restrictions by State, 2005

Generally, a revolving door policy prohibits a former officeholder or governmental employee from lobbying the same governmental agency or the same official actions for a reasonable “cooling off period” after leaving public office. Most states (20 states) with some form of revolving door policy that restricts lobbying activity for one year or less. Nine states impose a two-year ban on lobbying by some or all of its officials. A few states, such as California and New Mexico, impose a permanent ban for working on identical official actions or contracts that the government officer was personally and substantially involved in while in public service.

Some states apply revolving door restrictions only to the legislative branch (4 states), some apply the restrictions only to the executive branch (3 states), but most apply the restrictions to both branches of government (21 states). More than half the states (26 states) also apply some form of revolving door restrictions to senior-level government employees. Texas applies its revolving door policy only to executive directors of agencies rather than elected officials. Another 21 states have no revolving door policy at all.

1. Prohibition applies to legislative officeholders only (4 states)

Alaska (1 year restriction) [§24-45-121(c)]
Hawaii (1 year restriction) [§84-18]
Kansas (1 year restriction) [§46-233(b)(c)]¹
Maryland (through next legislative session) [§15-504]

2. Prohibition applies to executive officeholders only (3 states)

Nevada (1 year restriction) [§281.236]
West Virginia (6 month restriction) [§6B-2-5]
Wisconsin (1 year restriction) [§19.45(8)(b)]

3. Prohibition applies to both legislative and executive officeholders (21 states)

Alabama (2 year restriction) [§36-25-13]
Arizona (1 year restriction) [§38-504(a)(b)]
California (1 year restriction) [§87406]
Connecticut (1 year restriction) [§§2-16a, 1-84b]
Florida (2 year restriction) [§112.313(9)]
Iowa (2 year restriction) [§§68B.5A, 68B.7]
Kentucky (1 year for executive official, 2 years for legislator) [§§6.757, 11A.040]
Louisiana (2 year restriction) [§15:1121]
Massachusetts (1 year restriction) [§268A]²

¹ Hawaii – restriction applies only to involvement in any contract funded while serving in office.

² Massachusetts – restriction applies only to issues upon which the official worked during the last two years while in office.

Mississippi (1 year restriction) [§25-4-105]³
 Missouri (1 year restriction) [§105.454(5)]
 New Jersey (2 year restriction) [§§52:13d-17, 52:13d-17.2]⁴
 New Mexico (1 year restriction) [§10-16-8]
 New York (2 year restriction) [§73(8)(a)]
 Ohio (1 year restriction) [§102.03(A)]⁵
 Pennsylvania (1 year restriction) [§1103(g)]
 Rhode Island (1 year restriction) [§36-14-5]
 South Carolina (1 year restriction) [§8-13-755]⁶
 South Dakota (1 year restriction) [§2-12-8.2]
 Virginia (1 year restriction) [§2.2-3104]⁷
 Washington (1 year restriction) [§42.50.090, 42.52.080]⁸

4. Prohibition also applies to staff in a decisionmaking capacity (26 states)

Alabama (2 year restriction) [§36-25-13]
 Arizona (1 year restriction) [§38-504(a)(b)]
 California (1 year restriction) [§87406]
 Connecticut (1 year restriction) [§§2-16a, 1-84b]
 Florida (2 year restriction) [§112.313(9)]
 Hawaii (1 year restriction for legislative official only) [§84-18]
 Iowa (2 year restriction) [§§68B.5A, 68B.7]
 Kentucky (1 year restriction for executive official only) [§11A.040]
 Louisiana (2 year restriction) [§15:1121]
 Massachusetts (1 year restriction) [§268A]⁹
 Mississippi (1 year restriction) [§25-4-105]¹⁰
 Missouri (1 year restriction) [§105.454(5)]
 Nevada (1 year restriction for executive official only) [§281.236]
 New Jersey (2 year restriction) [§§52:13d-17, 52:13d-17.2]¹¹
 New Mexico (1 year restriction) [§10-16-8]
 New York (2 year restriction) [§73(8)(a)]
 Ohio (1 year restriction) [§102.03(A)]¹²

³ Mississippi – restriction only applies to contracts upon which the officials worked while serving in office.

⁴ New Jersey – restriction applies to officials working on behalf of the casino industry for two years after leaving office. Lifetime ban for officials lobbying on behalf of prior actions affecting a business in which the former official owns 10% interest or more.

⁵ Ohio – restriction applies to legislative officials lobbying the legislature; executive officials lobbying issues upon which they had worked while in office.

⁶ South Carolina – restriction applies only to issues upon which the official worked while serving in office.

⁷ Virginia – restriction applies only to issues upon which the official worked while serving in office.

⁸ Washington – restriction only applies to contracts upon which the officials worked in the last two years while serving in office.

⁹ Massachusetts – restriction applies only to issues upon which the official worked during the last two years while in office.

¹⁰ Mississippi – restriction only applies to contracts upon which the officials worked while serving in office.

¹¹ New Jersey – restriction applies to officials working on behalf of the casino industry for two years after leaving office. Lifetime ban for officials lobbying on behalf of prior actions affecting a business in which the former official owns 10% interest or more.

Pennsylvania (1 year restriction) [§1103(g)]
 Rhode Island (1 year restriction) [§36-14-5]
 South Carolina (1 year restriction) [§8-13-755]¹³
 South Dakota (1 year restriction) [§2-12-8.2]
 Texas (2 year restriction for executive directors only) [§572.051]
 Virginia (1 year restriction) [§2.2-3104]¹⁴
 Washington (1 year restriction) [§42.50.090, 42.52.080]¹⁵
 West Virginia (6 month restriction for executive official only) [§6B-2-5]
 Wisconsin (1 year restriction for executive official only) [§19.45(8)(b)]

5. No revolving door policy (21 states)

Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana,¹⁶ Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, and Wyoming.

¹² Ohio – restriction applies to legislative officials lobbying the legislature; executive officials lobbying issues upon which they had worked while in office.

¹³ South Carolina – restriction applies only to issues upon which the official worked while serving in office.

¹⁴ Virginia – restriction applies only to issues upon which the official worked while serving in office.

¹⁵ Washington – restriction only applies to contracts upon which the officials worked in the last two years while serving in office.

¹⁶ Montana – former public employees may not “take direct advantage, unavailable to others, of matters with which the officer or employee was directly involved...”