

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2001 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1330 (Delegates Gordon and Brinkley)
Commerce and Government Matters

Ethics Law - Lobbyist Violations - Intent

This bill removes the element of intent from certain offenses and penalties under State Ethics Law, as contained in SB 75 / HB 2.

The bill is effective November 1, 2001 and is contingent upon enactment of SB 75 or HB 2.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues and expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill removes the element of intent from prohibitions against:

- violating the lobbying provisions of State Ethics Law;
- making a statement of material fact that the lobbyist knows to be false; and
- concealing the identity of an entity while lobbying on behalf of the entity.

Current Law: A registered lobbyist is prohibited from knowingly:

- violating the lobbying provisions of State Ethics Law;
- making a statement of material fact that the lobbyist knows to be false; or

- concealing the identity of an entity while lobbying on behalf of the entity.

State Fiscal Effect: The State Ethics Commission advises that the bill could result in more cases related to violations of State Ethics Law. An increase in cases would result in an increase in general fund expenditures for administrative expenses. However, there could also be an increase in general fund revenues associated with any fines imposed in the additional cases. At this time the precise net impact cannot be determined, but any impact is expected to be minimal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Ethics Commission, State Prosecutor, Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader – March 14, 2001
cm/cer

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510