

SENATE BILL 509

G2, L2

11r2006

By: **Senator Peters**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2011

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County – Ethics Reforms**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying that the ethics provisions required to be enacted by
4 Prince George's County shall contain certain provisions; requiring that the
5 provisions prohibit a person from lobbying the county government for
6 contingent compensation; requiring that the provisions prohibit the county
7 government from issuing a credit card to certain persons; requiring that the
8 provisions prohibit an elected county official from soliciting certain persons to
9 enter into a business relationship with, or provide anything of value to, certain
10 other persons; requiring that the provisions establish a board of ethics composed
11 of a certain number of members and having an executive director; requiring the
12 provisions to provide for an ethics advisor who shall perform certain duties; and
13 generally relating to ethics reform in Prince George's County.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – State Government
16 Section 15–807(d)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
20 Article – State Government
21 Section 15–808
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
25 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

26 **Article – State Government**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 15-807.

2 (d) (1) [In] THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO Prince George's County[,
3 "local].

4 (2) "LOCAL official" includes:

5 [(1)] (I) each member of the Board of License Commissioners;

6 [(2)] (II) the chief inspector and any other inspector of the Board of
7 License Commissioners;

8 [(3)] (III) the administrator of the Board of License Commissioners;
9 and

10 [(4)] (IV) the attorney to the Board of License Commissioners.

11 (3) THE CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST PROVISIONS REQUIRED UNDER
12 § 15-803(A)(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE:

13 (I) SHALL PROHIBIT THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT FROM
14 ISSUING A CREDIT CARD TO AN ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIAL OR A MEMBER OF
15 THE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD; AND

16 (II) SHALL PROHIBIT AN ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIAL FROM
17 DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY SOLICITING A PERSON TO ENTER INTO A BUSINESS
18 RELATIONSHIP WITH OR PROVIDE ANYTHING OF VALUE TO A SPECIFIC
19 INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY, IF THE PERSON BEING SOLICITED IS SEEKING:

20 1. THE SUCCESS OR DEFEAT OF COUNTY
21 LEGISLATION;

22 2. A COUNTY CONTRACT; OR

23 3. ANY OTHER COUNTY BENEFIT.

24 (4) THE LOBBYING PROVISIONS REQUIRED UNDER § 15-803(A)(3)
25 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL PROHIBIT A PERSON FROM BEING ENGAGED FOR
26 LOBBYING PURPOSES FOR COMPENSATION THAT IS DEPENDENT IN ANY
27 MANNER ON THE OUTCOME OF EXECUTIVE OR LEGISLATIVE ACTION BEFORE
28 THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

29 (5) THE COUNTY'S ETHICS ENACTMENTS SHALL PROVIDE FOR:

1 (I) A COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS COMPOSED OF SEVEN
2 MEMBERS;

3 (II) A FULL-TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BOARD OF
4 ETHICS; AND

5 (III) AN ETHICS ADVISOR WHO:

6 1. SHALL MEET INDIVIDUALLY WITH EACH ELECTED
7 OFFICIAL OF THE COUNTY AT LEAST ANNUALLY, AND SHALL CONSULT MORE
8 FREQUENTLY IF INDICATED, TO ADVISE THE OFFICIAL REGARDING THE
9 REQUIREMENTS OF ANY APPLICABLE ETHICS LAW, RULE, OR STANDARD OF
10 CONDUCT;

11 2. SHALL ASSIST EACH ELECTED OFFICIAL OF THE
12 COUNTY IN PREPARING ANY AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER DOCUMENT REQUIRED TO BE
13 FILED UNDER THE COUNTY'S ETHICS ENACTMENTS;

14 3. SHALL CONDUCT ETHICS-RELATED BRIEFINGS
15 FOR THE BENEFIT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE COUNTY; AND

16 4. MAY PROVIDE INFORMATION TO ANY PERSON
17 REGARDING LAWS, RULES, AND OTHER STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT
18 APPLICABLE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE COUNTY.

19 15-808.

20 (a) If the Ethics Commission determines that a county or municipal
21 corporation has not complied with the requirements of this Part I, the Ethics
22 Commission may petition a circuit court with venue over the proceeding for
23 appropriate relief to compel compliance.

24 (b) The circuit court may grant any available equitable relief.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2011.