

Chapter 160

(Senate Bill 343)

AN ACT concerning

Public Ethics – Advisory Bodies – Advisory Opinions and Informal Advice

FOR the purpose of authorizing certain advisory bodies to issue informal advice; specifying that informal advice provided by certain advisory bodies is confidential and not subject to certain requirements of the Public Ethics Law; and generally relating to informal advice by certain advisory bodies to certain entities under the Public Ethics Law.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – General Provisions
Section 5–301
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Volume)

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

Article – General Provisions

5–301.

(a) (1) [On] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, ON** written request of an entity subject to this title, the appropriate advisory body shall issue an advisory opinion regarding the application of this title.

[(b)] (2) On written request of any other entity, the appropriate advisory body may issue an advisory opinion.

(B) (1) THE APPROPRIATE ADVISORY BODY MAY ISSUE INFORMAL ADVICE INSTEAD OF AN ADVISORY OPINION.

(2) INFORMATION RELATED TO INFORMAL ADVICE PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 5–303 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.