

HOUSE BILL 726

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By: **Delegate Carr**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ethics – Reports of Regulated Lobbyists – Open Data Format**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Ethics Commission to make certain reports filed on
4 or after a certain date available electronically for public review in a
5 machine-readable, searchable, and analyzable format; and generally relating to
6 ethics, reports of regulated lobbyists, and open data.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 5–710

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2014 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – General Provisions**

15 5–710.

16 (a) The Ethics Commission shall develop procedures under which a report
17 required under §§ 5–705 through 5–709 of this subtitle:

18 (1) may be filed electronically without additional cost to the individual who
19 files the report; [and]

20 (2) shall be made available for public inspection electronically; **AND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(3) IF FILED ON OR AFTER MAY 31, 2017, SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE**
2 **ELECTRONICALLY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW IN A MACHINE-READABLE, SEARCHABLE,**
3 **AND ANALYZABLE FORMAT.**

4 (b) (1) If the report filed electronically under subsection (a) of this section is
5 required to be made under oath or affirmation, the oath or affirmation shall be made by an
6 electronic signature that is:

7 (i) in the report or attached to and made part of the report; and

8 (ii) made expressly under the penalties of perjury.

9 (2) An electronic signature made under paragraph (1) of this subsection
10 subjects the individual making the electronic signature to the penalties of perjury to the
11 same extent as an oath or affirmation made before an individual authorized to administer
12 oaths.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2016.