

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 130 (Delegate Carr, *et al.*)
Rules and Executive Nominations

Lobbying - Legislative Unit Meals and Receptions - Publication of Report
(General Assembly Online Social Calendar)

This bill requires the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) to post a report once per week on the General Assembly website that contains the date and location of each upcoming meal or reception that a legislative unit is invited to attend.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled using existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: When a regulated lobbyist invites all members of a legislative unit (defined as the General Assembly, either house of the General Assembly, a standing committee of the General Assembly, or a recognized county or regional delegation of members of the General Assembly) to a meal or reception, at least five days prior to the meal or reception, the lobbyist must extend a written invitation to all members of the legislative unit and register the meal or reception with DLS. DLS publishes a weekly list of such meals and receptions. The regulated lobbyist must report the total cost of the meal or reception, including the identity of any sponsor who contributes to the cost and the amount of the contribution, to the State Ethics Commission within 14 days after the date of the meal or reception.

A “regulated lobbyist” is a person or entity required under the Maryland Public Ethics Law to register with the State Ethics Commission because the person or entity generally has made certain expenditures and/or received certain compensation to influence legislative or executive action.

Regulated lobbyists are subject to various specified reporting requirements under the Maryland Public Ethics Law with respect to gifts to or for government officials, employees, and/or members of the immediate families of officials or employees, including food and beverages.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1272 of 2015 was referred to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Ethics Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2016
min/kdm

Analysis by: Richard L. Duncan

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510