

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2016 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 726 (Delegate Carr)  
 Environment and Transportation Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Ethics - Reports of Regulated Lobbyists - Open Data Format**

This bill requires specified reports that must be submitted by lobbyists to the State Ethics Commission, if filed on or after May 31, 2017, to be made available electronically for public review in a machine-readable, searchable, and analyzable format.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Special fund expenditures increase by \$50,000 in FY 2017 only to modify the State Ethics Commission’s electronic filing system to meet the bill’s requirements. Revenues are not affected.

| (in dollars)   | FY 2017    | FY 2018 | FY 2019 | FY 2020 | FY 2021 |
|----------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenues       | \$0        | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     |
| SF Expenditure | 50,000     | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       |
| Net Effect     | (\$50,000) | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     |

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** 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. A lobbyist must submit reports to the State Ethics Commission concerning (1) the lobbyist's general lobbying activities; (2) gifts to or for government officials, employees, and/or members of the immediate families of officials or employees, including food and beverages; and (3) any business transactions the lobbyist may have had with government officials, members of the immediate families of the officials, or businesses the officials have an interest in.

**State Expenditures:** Special fund expenditures increase by an estimated \$50,000 in fiscal 2017 only to modify the State Ethics Commission's electronic filing system to allow the lobbyist reports specified in the bill to be in a machine-readable, searchable, and analyzable format. The State Ethics Commission advises that its electronic filing system is maintained by a contractor and that the contractor must make modifications to the system in order to comply with the bill.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2016  
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