

Chapter 185

(House Bill 370)

AN ACT concerning

Bicounty Commissions – Annual Reports – Conflicts of Interest and Lobbying

PG/MC 102–20

FOR the purpose of requiring certain bicounty commissions to submit a certain report on certain conflict of interest issues and regulations on or before a certain date each year; requiring certain bicounty commissions to submit a certain report on certain lobbying and lobbying regulation on or before a certain date each year; requiring certain bicounty commissions to publish certain reports on the website of the bicounty commission; and generally relating to annual reports on conflicts of interest and lobbying by bicounty commissions.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – General Provisions

Section 5–101(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – General Provisions

Section 5–823 and 5–830

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – General Provisions

5–101.

(c) “Bicounty commission” means:

- (1) the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission;
- (2) the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; or
- (3) the Washington Suburban Transit Commission.

5–823.

(a) Each bicounty commission shall adopt regulations relating to conflicts of interest of its employees.

(b) At a minimum, the conflict of interest standards applicable to public officials under Subtitle 5 of this title shall apply to the employees of each bicounty commission.

(c) Each bicounty commission shall file with the Ethics Commission a copy of its regulations relating to conflicts of interest.

(d) **[Each] ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30 EACH YEAR, EACH** bicounty commission shall:

(1) prepare an annual report on its conflict of interest issues and regulations during the **PREVIOUS CALENDAR** year [covered]; [and]

(2) submit the report to the governing body of each county in which the bicounty commission operates; **AND**

(3) PUBLISH THE REPORT ON THE WEBSITE OF THE BICOUNTY COMMISSION.

5-830.

(a) Each bicounty commission shall adopt regulations relating to lobbying of that bicounty commission.

(b) At a minimum, the regulations adopted by a bicounty commission shall be similar to the provisions of Subtitle 7 of this title.

(c) Each bicounty commission shall submit to the Ethics Commission a copy of its regulations relating to lobbying.

(d) **[Each] ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30 EACH YEAR, EACH** bicounty commission shall:

(1) prepare an annual report on the lobbying before the bicounty commission and regulation of that lobbying by the bicounty commission **FOR THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR**; [and]

(2) submit the report to the governing body of each county in which the bicounty commission operates; **AND**

(3) PUBLISH THE REPORT ON THE WEBSITE OF THE BICOUNTY COMMISSION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.