

# HOUSE BILL 1542

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By: **Delegates Terrasa, Lehman, and Wu**

Introduced and read first time: February 25, 2025

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Public Ethics Law – Regulated Lobbyists – Reporting Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the dates by which a regulated lobbyist must file a certain  
4 report to the State Ethics Commission; altering the contents of the report; and  
5 generally relating to reporting requirements for regulated lobbyists.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article – General Provisions  
8 Section 5–101(x) and 5–702(a)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – General Provisions  
13 Section 5–705(a) and (b)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – General Provisions**

19 5–101.

20 (x) “Lobbying” means performing any act that requires registration under §  
21 5–702 of this title.

22 5–702.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) Unless exempted under subsection (b) of this section, an entity shall register  
2 with the Ethics Commission as provided in this subtitle and shall be a regulated lobbyist  
3 for the purposes of this title if, during a reporting period, the entity:

4 (1) for the purpose of influencing any legislative action or any executive  
5 action relating to the development or adoption of regulations or the development or  
6 issuance of an executive order:

7 (i) 1. communicates with an official or employee of the  
8 Legislative Branch or Executive Branch in the presence of that official or employee; and

9 2. except for the personal travel or subsistence expenses of  
10 the entity or a representative of the entity, incurs expenses of at least \$500 or earns at least  
11 \$2,500 as compensation for all such communication and activities relating to the  
12 communication during the reporting period; or

13 (ii) 1. communicates with an official or employee of the  
14 Legislative Branch or Executive Branch; and

15 2. earns at least \$5,000 as compensation for all such  
16 communication and activities relating to the communication during the reporting period;

17 (2) in connection with or for the purpose of influencing any executive  
18 action, spends a cumulative value of at least \$100 for gifts, including meals, beverages, and  
19 special events, to one or more officials or employees of the Executive Branch;

20 (3) subject to subsection (b)(4) of this section, is compensated to influence  
21 executive action on a procurement contract that exceeds \$100,000;

22 (4) subject to subsection (b)(5) of this section, is compensated by a business  
23 entity to influence executive action to secure from the State a business grant or loan with  
24 a value of more than \$100,000 for the business entity;

25 (5) spends at least \$2,000, including expenditures for salaries, contractual  
26 employees, postage, telecommunications services, electronic services, advertising, printing,  
27 and delivery services, for the express purpose of soliciting others to communicate with an  
28 official to influence legislative action or executive action; or

29 (6) spends at least \$2,500 to provide compensation to one or more entities  
30 required to register under this subsection.

31 5-705.

32 (a) (1) A regulated lobbyist shall file electronically with the Ethics  
33 Commission, under oath and for each registration, a separate report concerning the  
34 regulated lobbyist's lobbying activities:

1                   **(I) BY FEBRUARY 15 EACH YEAR, TO COVER THE PERIOD FROM**  
2 **NOVEMBER 1 OF THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR THROUGH JANUARY 31 OF**  
3 **THE CURRENT YEAR, BOTH INCLUSIVE;**

4                   **(II) BY MARCH 15 EACH YEAR, TO COVER THE PERIOD FROM**  
5 **FEBRUARY 1 THROUGH THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY OF THAT YEAR, BOTH**  
6 **INCLUSIVE;**

7                   **[(i)] (III) by May 31 of each year, to cover the period from**  
8 **[November] MARCH 1 [of the previous year] through April 30 of [the current] THAT year,**  
9 **BOTH INCLUSIVE; and**

10                   **[(ii)] (IV) by November 30 of each year, to cover the period from May**  
11 **1 through October 31 of that year, BOTH INCLUSIVE.**

12                   (2) If the regulated lobbyist is not an individual, an authorized officer or  
13 agent of the regulated lobbyist shall sign the report.

14                   (3) If a prorated amount is reported as compensation, it shall be labeled as  
15 prorated.

16                   (b) A report required by this section shall include:

17                   (1) a complete, current statement of the information required under §  
18 5-704(b) of this subtitle;

19                   (2) total expenditures in connection with influencing executive action or  
20 legislative action in each of the following categories:

21                   (i) total individual regulated lobbyist compensation, excluding  
22 expenses reported under this paragraph;

23                   (ii) office expenses of the regulated lobbyist;

24                   (iii) professional and technical research and assistance;

25                   (iv) publications that expressly encourage communication with one  
26 or more officials or employees;

27                   (v) witnesses, including the name of each and the fees and expenses  
28 paid to each;

29                   (vi) except as otherwise reported under this paragraph, meals and  
30 beverages for officials, employees, or members of the immediate families of officials or  
31 employees;

1 (vii) except as provided in § 5–709(d)(2) of this subtitle, food,  
2 beverages, and incidental expenses for officials of the Legislative Branch for meals and  
3 receptions to which all members of any legislative unit were invited;

4 (viii) food and beverages for members of the General Assembly at the  
5 times and geographic locations of meetings of legislative organizations, as allowed under §  
6 5–505(c)(2)(i)4 of this title;

7 (ix) food, lodging, and scheduled entertainment for officials and  
8 employees at meetings at which the officials and employees were scheduled speakers or  
9 scheduled panel participants;

10 (x) tickets and free admission extended to members of the General  
11 Assembly, as a courtesy or ceremony to the office, to attend charitable, cultural, or political  
12 events sponsored or conducted by the reporting entity, as allowed under § 5–505(c)(2)(viii)  
13 of this title;

14 (xi) other gifts to or for officials, employees, or members of the  
15 immediate families of officials or employees; and

16 (xii) other expenses; [and]

17 (3) as to expenditures reported in item (2)(vii), (viii), (ix), and (x) of this  
18 subsection, the date, location, and total expense of the regulated lobbyist for each meal,  
19 reception, event, or meeting; AND

20 **(4) A LIST OF EACH MATTER ON WHICH THE REGULATED LOBBYIST**  
21 **PERFORMED LOBBYING ACTIVITY, INCLUDING:**

22 **(I) A DESCRIPTION OF THE LOBBYIST’S POSITION ON EACH**  
23 **MATTER; AND**

24 **(II) EACH BILL NUMBER OR A DESCRIPTION OF EACH**  
25 **LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON WHICH THE LOBBYIST PERFORMED LOBBYING ACTIVITY.**

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 October 1, 2025.