THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING
COMMISSION

POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: **HB 370 Bicounty Commissions–Annual Reports –Conflicts of Interest and Lobbying- PG/MC 102-20**

Position: Support with Amendments **Date:** March 10, 2020

Contact: Adrian R. Gardner, General Counsel

What The Bill Does: As amended, this bill will require publication of certain public ethics reports and establish a new uniform deadline to complete the annual reporting cycle currently applicable to all bi-county agencies.

Why We Support: The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission ("Commission") supports this public sunshine legislation.

Under current law, the Commission is required to submit an annual report covering certain ethics and lobbying issues to each bi-county jurisdiction. The bill modifies the existing law by expressly requiring completion each report on the same annual cycle – in synch – with the April 30 deadline for annual financial disclosure completed by each Commissioner and certain covered employees. It also will expressly require publication of the report on the Commission's website. Because the bill simply enhances the timing and scope of existing functions, it promises better compliance and better public disclosure, but without any adverse fiscal impact.

The Commission urges a favorable report on the bill as amended to prescribe the deadline of April 30.

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