

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulation
State Ethics Commission
(DLS Control No. 14-266)**

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

This regulation establishes the timeframe in which a regulated lobbyist is required to take an ethics training course relevant to the practice of lobbying.

The regulation presents no legal issue of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Regulation of COMAR Affected

State Ethics Commission:

Lobbying: General: COMAR 19A.07.01.18

Legal Analysis

Background

Chapter 21 (SB 92) of 2014 revises the timeframes within which specified regulated lobbyists are required to take an ethics training course held by the commission.

Summary of Regulation

The regulation requires specified lobbyists to complete an ethics training course (1) within six months of the lobbyist's initial registration with the commission or (2) if the registration is terminated under specified conditions, earlier than six months after the date of registration and before any subsequent registration with the commission. After a lobbyist has completed the initial training course, the lobbyist must complete another training course within the two-year period following the date of the most recently completed training course.

Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent

The State Ethics Commission cites §§ 5-205(e), 5-206, and 5-704.1(f) of the General Provisions Article as statutory authority for this regulation. Section 5-205(e) requires the commission to provide a training course for regulated lobbyists and prospective regulated lobbyists at least twice per year regarding the provisions of the Public Ethics Law relevant to regulated lobbyists. Section 5-206 authorizes the commission to adopt regulations to implement the provisions of the Public Ethics Law. Section 5-704.1(f) sets forth the requirements for when

regulated lobbyists must complete ethics training courses held by the commission. This authority is correct and complete and complies with the legislative intent of the law.

Technical Correction

There is a typographical error in the authority line of the regulation. The commission cited § 5-704(f) of the General Provisions Article. This should be cited as § 5-704.1(f) of the General Provisions Article. The commission has been notified.

Fiscal Analysis

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact

The commission advises that the regulation has minimal or no impact on State or local governments. The Department of Legislative Services concurs and notes that the regulation implements Chapter 21 of 2014 (Senate Bill 92). In the fiscal and policy note for that bill, the Department of Legislative Services advised that the bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources.

Impact on Budget

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact

The commission advises that the regulation has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Contact Information

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