

By: Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters Committee (Departmental - Ethics, State Commission on)

Requested: October 16, 1995

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 1996

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ethics Law - Registration and Disclosure - Lobbyists**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring registration as a lobbyist by entities that communicate for
4 a certain purpose with an official or employee whether or not in the presence of the
5 official or employee under certain circumstances; establishing certain registration
6 criteria; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to registration
7 requirements for entities.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - State Government
10 Section 15-701(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - State Government**

16 15-701.

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

20 (1) for the purpose of influencing legislative action:

21 (i) communicates with an official or employee of the Legislative
22 Branch or Executive Branch in the presence of that official or employee; and

23 (ii) exclusive of the personal travel or subsistence expenses of the
24 entity or a representative of the entity, incurs expenses of at least \$100 or earns at least
25 \$500 as compensation;

26 (2) FOR THE PURPOSE OF INFLUENCING LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

2

1 (I) COMMUNICATES IN ANY WAY WITH AN OFFICIAL OR
2 EMPLOYEE, WHETHER OR NOT IN THE PRESENCE OF THAT OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE;

3 (II) IS NOT A REGULAR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE OF AN EMPLOYER;
4 AND

5 (III) EARNS AT LEAST \$500 IN COMPENSATION;

6 [(2)] (3) in connection with or for the purpose of influencing executive
7 action, spends a cumulative value of at least \$100 for meals, beverages, special events, or
8 gifts on one or more officials or employees of the Executive Branch;

9 [(3)] (4) is employed to influence executive action on a procurement
10 contract that exceeds \$100,000;

11 [(4)] (5) spends at least \$2,000, including postage, for the express purpose
12 of soliciting others to communicate with an official to influence legislative action or
13 executive action; or

14 [(5)] (6) spends at least \$500 to provide compensation to one or more
15 entities required to register under this subsection.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 November 1, 1996.