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**By: Delegates M. Burns and Leopold**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 1996

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Lobbyists - Solicitation of Political Contributions - Restrictions**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the prohibition against lobbyists soliciting or transmitting  
4 certain contributions to include the campaigns of incumbents in, or candidates for  
5 election to, the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, or Attorney  
6 General; prohibiting certain lobbyists from serving on a fund-raising or political  
7 committee; and generally relating to restrictions on certain fund-raising activities by  
8 lobbyists.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article 33 - Election Code  
11 Section 26-3(a)(4)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article - State Government  
16 Section 15-707  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (1995 Replacement Volume)

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

21 **Article 33 - Election Code**

22 26-3.

23 (a) (4) (i) 1. In this paragraph "lobbyist" means a regulated lobbyist who is  
24 described in § 15-701(a)(1), (2), or (3) of the State Government Article.

25 2. A lobbyist, or a person acting on behalf of a lobbyist, may not  
26 organize or establish a political committee for the purpose of soliciting or transmitting  
27 contributions or transfers from any person to:

28 A. AN INCUMBENT IN, OR CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO,  
29 THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, COMPTROLLER, OR  
30 ATTORNEY GENERAL; OR

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1 B. a member or candidate for election to the General Assembly.

2 (ii) This paragraph may not be construed to prohibit a lobbyist from:

3 1. Being a candidate; or

4 2. Making a personal contribution within the limitations  
5 established under Article 33 of the Code.

6 **Article - State Government**

7 15-707.

8 (a) In this section, "candidate" and "political committee" have the meanings  
9 provided in Article 33, § 1-1(a) of the Code.

10 (b) This section applies only to a regulated lobbyist described in §15-701(a)(1),  
11 (2), or (3) of this subtitle who, during the period specified in subsection (c) of this section  
12 and for the purpose of influencing legislative action, communicates with:

13 (1) AN INCUMBENT IN, OR CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO, THE OFFICE  
14 OF GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, COMPTROLLER, OR ATTORNEY GENERAL;  
15 OR

16 (2) a member of or candidate for election to the General Assembly.

17 (c) The restrictions in this section apply from the starting date of the regulated  
18 lobbyist's registration to the end of the calendar year in which the registration period  
19 ends.

20 (d) (1) A regulated lobbyist who is subject to this section or a person acting on  
21 behalf of the regulated lobbyist may not, for the benefit of AN INCUMBENT IN, OR  
22 CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO, THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT  
23 GOVERNOR, COMPTROLLER, OR ATTORNEY GENERAL, OR a member of or candidate  
24 for election to the General Assembly:

25 (i) solicit or transmit a political contribution from any person,  
26 including a political committee;

27 (ii) serve on a fund-raising committee or a political committee; or

28 (iii) act as a treasurer or chairman of a political committee.

29 (2) This section does not prohibit a regulated lobbyist from:

30 (i) making a personal political contribution; or

31 (ii) informing any entity of a position taken by a candidate.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
33 October 1, 1996.