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

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 1996

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ethics Law - Registration and Disclosure - Local Lobbyists - School Board Lobbyists**

3 FOR the purpose of providing for State registration by persons engaged in lobbying
4 activities in a county, municipal corporation, or school board under certain
5 circumstances; defining filing requirements and information; establishing certain
6 restrictions; providing for the effective date of this Act; and generally relating to
7 lobbying registration and disclosure.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - State Government
10 Section 15-806 and 15-814
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1995 Replacement Volume)

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 15-806.

17 (A) The lobbying provisions enacted by a county or municipal corporation under §
18 15-803 of this subtitle shall be substantially similar to the provisions of Subtitle 7 of this
19 title, but:

20 (1) shall be modified to the extent necessary to make the provisions relevant
21 to that jurisdiction; and

22 (2) may be further modified to the extent considered necessary and
23 appropriate by and for that jurisdiction.

24 (B) (1) FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGISTRATION AND ACTIVITY REPORTING
25 ONLY, A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY ELECT TO BE GOVERNED BY
26 THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBTITLE 7 OF THIS TITLE AND REQUIRE REGISTRATION
27 AND REPORTING BY LOCAL LOBBYISTS WITH THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION IN
28 LIEU OF OR AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO LOCAL FILING.

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1 (2) COPIES OF ALL REGISTRATION FORMS AND REPORTS SUBMITTED
2 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE FORWARDED BY THE STATE ETHICS
3 COMMISSION TO THE DESIGNATED LOCAL DEPOSITORY OF LOBBYIST
4 REGISTRATION AND REPORTING FORMS.

5 (3) THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION
6 SHALL APPLY ONLY IF:

7 (I) THE LOCAL ACTIVITY IS SUFFICIENTLY DESCRIBED AND
8 ACCOUNTED FOR AS TO EXPENDITURES; AND

9 (II) THE PERSON REGISTERED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IS
10 CONSIDERED A REGULATED LOBBYIST FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANY LOCAL ETHICS
11 LAW, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO LOBBYIST RESTRICTIONS, CONFLICT OF
12 INTEREST, AND LOCAL OFFICIALS FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.

13 15-814.

14 (a) A school board may adopt regulations relating to lobbying of members of the
15 school board and of officials and employees of the school system in accordance with this
16 section.

17 (b) The lobbying regulations adopted by a school board under subsection (a) of
18 this section shall be substantially similar to the provisions of Subtitle 7 of this title, but:

19 (1) may be modified to the extent necessary to make the provisions relevant
20 to that school system; and

21 (2) may be further modified to the extent considered necessary and
22 appropriate by and for that school system.

23 (c) [Unless] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION,
24 UNLESS a school board adopts and maintains lobbying regulations under this subtitle, the
25 provisions enacted by the county under § 15-806 of this subtitle shall apply to that school
26 system.

27 (D) (1) FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGISTRATION AND ACTIVITY REPORTING
28 ONLY, A SCHOOL BOARD MAY ELECT TO BE GOVERNED BY THE REQUIREMENTS OF
29 SUBTITLE 7 OF THIS TITLE AND REQUIRE REGISTRATION AND REPORTING BY
30 SCHOOL BOARD LOBBYISTS WITH THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION IN LIEU OF OR AS
31 AN ALTERNATIVE TO LOCAL FILING.

32 (2) COPIES OF ALL REGISTRATION FORMS AND REPORTS SUBMITTED
33 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE FORWARDED BY THE STATE ETHICS
34 COMMISSION TO THE DESIGNATED SCHOOL BOARD DEPOSITORY OF LOBBYIST
35 REGISTRATION AND REPORTING FORMS.

36 (3) THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION
37 SHALL APPLY ONLY IF:

38 (I) THE SCHOOL BOARD ACTIVITY IS SUFFICIENTLY DESCRIBED
39 AND ACCOUNTED FOR AS TO EXPENDITURES; AND

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1 (II) THE PERSON REGISTERED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IS
2 CONSIDERED A REGULATED LOBBYIST FOR THE PURPOSE OF ANY SCHOOL BOARD
3 ETHICS REGULATIONS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO LOBBYIST RESTRICTIONS,
4 CONFLICT OF INTEREST, AND SCHOOL BOARD FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.

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