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**By: Senator Collins (Chairman, Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics) and Senator Miller**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 14, 1996

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ethics Law - Financial Disclosure and Lobbyist Reporting - Special Events**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that an official need not include as a gift on the financial  
4 disclosure statement attendance at certain events that are otherwise reported by  
5 regulated lobbyists; altering certain lobbyist reporting requirements as to certain  
6 functions to include events to which all members of a county or regional delegation  
7 of the General Assembly are invited; generally relating to lobbyist reporting;  
8 providing that a presiding officer of the Senate or House of Delegates shall be  
9 deemed an ex officio member of a standing committee of the presiding officer's  
10 chamber; and generally relating to financial disclosure and lobbyist disclosure.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

12 Article - State Government

13 Section 15-607(a)

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (1995 Replacement Volume)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

17 Article - State Government

18 Section 15-607(e) and 15-704

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (1995 Replacement Volume)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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1           **Article - State Government**

2 15-607.

3           (a) A statement that is required by § 15-601(a) of this subtitle shall contain  
4 schedules disclosing the information and interests specified in this section, if known, for  
5 the individual making the statement for the applicable period under this subtitle.

6           (e) (1) This subsection does not apply to a gift received from a member of the  
7 immediate family, another child, or a parent of the individual.

8           (2) The statement shall include a schedule of each gift, specified in  
9 paragraph (3) of this subsection, received during the applicable period:

10                   (i) by the individual or by another entity at the direction of the  
11 individual; and

12                   (ii) directly or indirectly, from or on behalf of an entity that is:

13                               1. a regulated lobbyist;

14                               2. regulated by the State; or

15                               3. otherwise an entity doing business with the State.

16           (3) The schedule shall include:

17                   (i) each gift with a value of more than \$25, EXCEPT THAT THE  
18 STATEMENT NEED NOT INCLUDE AS A GIFT ATTENDANCE AT A SPECIAL EVENT  
19 THAT IS REPORTED BY A REGULATED LOBBYIST UNDER § 15-704(B)(2)(VI) OF THIS  
20 TITLE; and

21                   (ii) each of two or more gifts with a cumulative value of \$100 or more  
22 received from one entity during the applicable period.

23           (4) For each gift subject to this subsection, the schedule shall include:

24                   (i) the nature and value of the gift; and

25                   (ii) the identity of the entity from which, directly or indirectly, the gift  
26 was received.

27           (5) This subsection does not authorize any gift not otherwise allowed by law.

28 15-704.

29           (a) (1) A regulated lobbyist shall file with the Ethics Commission, under oath  
30 and for each registration, a separate report concerning the regulated lobbyist's lobbying  
31 activities:

32                   (i) by May 31 of each year, to cover the period from November 1 of  
33 the previous year through April 30 of the current year; and

34                   (ii) by November 30 of each year, to cover the period from May 1  
35 through October 31 of that year.

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1 (2) If the regulated lobbyist is not an individual, an authorized officer or  
2 agent of the regulated lobbyist shall sign the report.

3 (3) If a prorated amount is reported as compensation, it shall be labeled as  
4 prorated.

5 (b) A report required by this section shall include:

6 (1) a complete, current statement of the information required under §  
7 15-703(b) of this subtitle;

8 (2) total expenditures in connection with influencing executive action or  
9 legislative action in each of the following categories:

10 (i) total compensation paid to the regulated lobbyist, excluding:

- 11 1. expenses reported under this paragraph; and
- 12 2. salaries, compensation, and reimbursed expenses for the  
13 regulated lobbyist's staff;

14 (ii) unless reported under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph:

- 15 1. office expenses of the regulated lobbyist; and
- 16 2. professional and technical research and assistance;

17 (iii) publications that expressly encourage communication with one or  
18 more officials or employees;

19 (iv) witnesses, including the name of each and the fees and expenses  
20 paid to each;

21 (v) meals and beverages for officials, employees, or members of the  
22 immediate families of officials or employees;

23 (vi) special events, including parties, meals, athletic events,  
24 entertainment, or other functions to which were invited all members of:

- 25 1. the General Assembly;
- 26 2. either house of the General Assembly; [or]
- 27 3. a standing committee of the General Assembly, PROVIDED  
28 THAT THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OR SENATE SHALL BE  
29 DEEMED AN EX OFFICIO MEMBER OF ANY STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE  
30 PRESIDING OFFICER'S CHAMBER; OR
- 31 4. A COUNTY OR REGIONAL DELEGATION OF MEMBERS OF  
32 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT IS RECOGNIZED BY A PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE  
33 GENERAL ASSEMBLY;

34 (vii) 1. food, lodging, and scheduled entertainment of officials and  
35 employees for a meeting, if given in return for participation in a panel or speaking  
36 engagement at the meeting; and



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1 (iv) the total cumulative value of gifts of tickets or admissions,  
2 calculated as to each recipient.

3 (3) The regulated lobbyist may:

4 (i) declare on the form required under paragraph (3) of this  
5 subsection that a gift of a ticket or admission was given for purposes not related to the  
6 regulated lobbyist's lobbying activities; and

7 (ii) explain the circumstances under which the gift was given.

8 (4) Gifts of tickets or admissions reported by a regulated lobbyist under this  
9 subsection need not be counted or reported by the regulated lobbyist for purposes of  
10 disclosure under subsection (b)(4) of this section.

11 (e) (1) (i) Subject to the provisions of subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, in  
12 addition to any other report required under this section, a regulated lobbyist shall file,  
13 with the report required by subsection (a) of this section, a report disclosing the name of  
14 any State official of the Executive or Legislative Branch or member of the immediate  
15 family of a State official of the Executive or Legislative Branch who has benefited during  
16 the reporting period from gifts of meals or beverages, whether or not in connection with  
17 lobbying activities, allowed under § 15-505(c)(2)(i) of this title from the regulated  
18 lobbyist.

19 (ii) The name of a member of the General Assembly or member of the  
20 immediate family of a member of the General Assembly shall be disclosed under  
21 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph only if the gift of a meal or beverage to the individual  
22 costs \$15 or more.

23 (2) Gifts reported by name of recipient under subsection (b)(2)(vii) of this  
24 section and special events listed under subsection (b)(2)(vi) of this section need not be  
25 allocated for the purposes of disclosure under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

26 (3) The disclosure required by this subsection shall be under oath or  
27 affirmation, on a form issued by the Ethics Commission, and shall include:

28 (i) the name and business address of the regulated lobbyist;

29 (ii) the name of each recipient of a gift of a meal or beverages;

30 (iii) the date and value of each gift of a meal or beverages, and the  
31 identity of the entity or entities to which the gift is attributable; and

32 (iv) the total cumulative value of gifts of meals or beverages, calculated  
33 as to each recipient.

34 (4) The regulated lobbyist may:

35 (i) declare on the form required under paragraph (3) of this  
36 subsection that a gift of a meal or beverages was given for purposes not related to the  
37 regulated lobbyist's lobbying activities; and

38 (ii) explain the circumstances under which the gift of a meal or  
39 beverages was given.

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1                   (5) Gifts of meals or beverages reported by a regulated lobbyist under this  
2 subsection need not be counted or reported by the regulated lobbyist for purposes of  
3 disclosure under subsection (b)(4) of this section.

4                   (f) The Ethics Commission may require a regulated lobbyist to file any additional  
5 report the Ethics Commission determines to be necessary.

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