

(PRE-FILED)

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**By: Delegate Taylor and Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters Committee,
and Delegates Dewberry, Hurson, Arnick, Busch, Harrison, Hixson, Kopp, Menes,
Owings, Rawlings, and Vallario**

Requested: August 1, 1996

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ethics Laws - Financial Disclosure Statements - Judicial Candidates**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring individuals who file a certificate of candidacy, or certificate
4 of nomination, for certain judicial offices to file additional financial disclosure
5 statements under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the filing of
6 certain financial disclosure statements by individuals who are candidates for certain
7 judicial offices.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - State Government
10 Section 15-610
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1996 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 15-610.

17 (a) Pursuant to its administrative authority over the Judicial Branch under the
18 Maryland Constitution, the Court of Appeals is directed to adopt and administer rules
19 that require each individual specified in § 15-601(b) of this subtitle to file a statement
20 periodically that discloses, as a public record, the information concerning the individual's
21 financial affairs that the court considers necessary or appropriate to promote continued
22 trust and confidence in the integrity of the Judicial Branch.

23 (b) (1) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, each
24 candidate for nomination for or election to a judgeship shall file the statement specified
25 in subsection (a) of this section no later than the time the candidate files a certificate of
26 candidacy.

27 (ii) This paragraph does not require the filing of a statement for any
28 year covered in full by a statement filed by the individual under subsection (a) of this
29 section.

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1 (2) The statement shall:

2 (i) cover the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which
3 the certificate of candidacy is filed; and

4 (ii) be filed with the election board with which the certificate of
5 candidacy is filed.

6 (3) EACH YEAR THROUGH THE YEAR OF THE ELECTION A CANDIDATE
7 FOR NOMINATION OR ELECTION SHALL FILE AN ADDITIONAL STATEMENT IF:

8 (I) THE CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY IS FILED IN A YEAR PRIOR
9 TO THE YEAR OF THE ELECTION FOR WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL IS A CANDIDATE; AND

10 (II) NO STATEMENT COVERING THAT FULL YEAR OTHERWISE IS
11 FILED BY THE INDIVIDUAL UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

12 [(3)] (4) An election board may not accept a certificate of candidacy or
13 certificate of nomination of a candidate covered by this subsection unless the candidate
14 has filed any statement required by this section.

15 [(4)] (5) An election board, within 30 days after receiving a statement under
16 this subsection, shall forward the statement to the entity designated by the Court of
17 Appeals to receive the statements filed under subsection (a) of this section.

18 (c) Within 30 days after receiving a statement under this section, the Court of
19 Appeals or its designee shall transmit a copy of the statement to the Ethics Commission.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 1997.