

(PRE-FILED)

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**By: Delegate Curran**

Requested: November 6, 1996

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 19, 1997

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Lobbyist Reporting Requirements - Special Events**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding lobbyist reporting requirements for certain functions to  
4 include events to which all members of a county or regional delegation of the  
5 General Assembly are invited; providing that a presiding officer of the Senate or  
6 House of Delegates shall be deemed an ex officio member of a standing committee  
7 of the presiding officer's chamber for certain reporting purposes; and generally  
8 relating to lobbyist disclosure requirements.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article - State Government  
11 Section 15-704(a) and (e)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article - State Government  
16 Section 15-704(b)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

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1           **Article - State Government**

2 15-704.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15                       (1) a complete, current statement of the information required under §  
16 15-703(b) of this subtitle;

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

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

20                                       1. expenses reported under this paragraph; and

21                                       2. salaries, compensation, and reimbursed expenses for the  
22 regulated lobbyist's staff;

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

24                                       1. office expenses of the regulated lobbyist; and

25                                       2. professional and technical research and assistance;

26                               (iii) publications that expressly encourage communication with one or  
27 more officials or employees;

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

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

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

34                                       1. the General Assembly;

35                                       2. either house of the General Assembly; [or]



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1 whether or not in connection with lobbying activities, by the regulated lobbyist or any  
2 entity acting on behalf of the regulated lobbyist, however, except as provided in paragraph  
3 (2)(vii)2 of this subsection, expenses reported in paragraph (2)(vi) and (vii) of this  
4 subsection need not be allocated to an individual.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (4) The regulated lobbyist may:

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

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

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

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

