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**By: Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee (Departmental - Ethics, State Commission on)**

Requested: October 30, 1996

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ethics Law - Enforcement - Limitation on Actions**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a limitation period for institution of actions to impose a  
4 civil fine under the Maryland Public Ethics Law.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article - State Government  
7 Section 15-401  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

12 **Article - State Government**

13 15-401.

14 (a) (1) Any entity may file with the Ethics Commission a written complaint  
15 alleging a violation of this title.

16 (2) A complaint filed under this subsection shall be:

17 (i) signed; and

18 (ii) made under oath.

19 (b) The Ethics Commission on its own motion may issue a complaint alleging a  
20 violation of this title.

21 (C) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, THE COMMISSION  
22 MAY NOT INITIATE ACTION TO IMPOSE A CIVIL FINE PURSUANT TO § 15-902(B) OF  
23 THIS TITLE UNLESS THE COMPLAINT HAS BEEN FILED WITHIN 4 YEARS FROM THE  
24 TIME THE CONDUCT ENDED.

25 [(c)] (D) The Ethics Commission promptly shall transmit to the respondent a copy  
26 of the complaint.

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