
By: Senator Ruben

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 1997

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Lobbyist Reporting Requirements - Special Events - Delegations of the General Assembly**

3 FOR the purpose of altering lobbyist reporting requirements for certain events to which
4 all members of a county or regional delegation of the General Assembly are invited;
5 and generally relating to lobbyist disclosure requirements.

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

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

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

18 **Article - State Government**

19 15-704.

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 (1) a complete, current statement of the information required under §
5 15-703(b) of this subtitle;

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

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

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

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

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

15 (iii) publications that expressly encourage communication with one or
16 more officials or employees;

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

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

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

- 23 1. the General Assembly;
24 2. either house of the General Assembly; [or]
25 3. a standing committee of the General Assembly; OR
26 4. A COUNTY OR REGIONAL DELEGATION OF MEMBERS OF
27 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT IS DESIGNATED BY A PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE
28 GENERAL ASSEMBLY;

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

32 2. if more than \$200 of the expenses reported in item 1 of this
33 subparagraph are for any one official or employee at any meeting, the individual's name
34 and the amount spent;

35 (viii) other gifts to or for officials, employees, or members of the
36 immediate families of officials or employees; and

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1 (ix) other expenses;

2 (3) as to expenditures reported in paragraph (2)(vi) and (vii) of this
3 subsection, the date, location, and total expense of the regulated lobbyist for the event or
4 meeting; and

5 (4) subject to subsections (d) and (e) of this section, the name of each
6 official, employee, or member of the immediate family of an official or employee, to or for
7 whom, during a reporting period, one or more gifts with a cumulative value of \$75 or
8 more are given, regardless of whether a gift is attributable to more than one entity and
9 whether or not in connection with lobbying activities, by the regulated lobbyist or any
10 entity acting on behalf of the regulated lobbyist, however, except as provided in paragraph
11 (2)(vii)2 of this subsection, expenses reported in paragraph (2)(vi) and (vii) of this
12 subsection need not be allocated to an individual.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (4) The regulated lobbyist may:

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

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

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

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