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By: Delegates Bobo and Taylor, Taylor, Wood, Arnick, DeCarlo, Kittleman, Malone, Rudolph, Morgan, Benson, Brinkley, Clagett, Dobson, Dvpski, Faulkner, Getty, Kagan, Mandel, Minnick, Moe, Mossburg, Opara, Patterson, and Snodgrass

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 1998  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 23, 1998

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Ethics – Members of the General Assembly – Additional Filing of Annual~~  
3 ~~Financial Disclosure Statement~~  
4 Legislative Ethics - Advisory Services and Disclosure

5 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring that members of the General Assembly file a copy of the~~  
6 ~~annual financial disclosure statement that the members are required to file~~  
7 ~~with the State Ethics Commission with the Joint Committee on Legislative~~  
8 ~~Ethics requiring the President of the Senate of Maryland and the Speaker of the~~  
9 ~~House of Delegates jointly to appoint an attorney to serve as counsel to the Joint~~  
10 ~~Committee on Legislative Ethics; specifying the duties of the counsel; requiring~~  
11 ~~the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics to maintain and make available to~~  
12 ~~the public certain records and to give certain notice to members of the General~~  
13 ~~Assembly under certain circumstances; requiring the State Ethics Commission~~  
14 ~~to submit a copy of certain statements filed by members of the General~~  
15 ~~Assembly to the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics; and generally relating~~  
16 ~~to legislative ethics.~~

17 BY renumbering  
18 Article - State Government  
19 Section 2-707 and 2-708, respectively  
20 to be Section 2-708 and 2-709, respectively  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

1 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
2 Article - State Government  
3 Section 2-701  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

6 BY adding to  
7 Article - State Government  
8 Section 2-707 and 15-513.1  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article - State Government  
13 Section 15-602  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
19 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 2-707 and 2-708, respectively, of Article - State  
20 Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 2-708  
21 and 2-709, respectively.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland  
23 read as follows:

24 **Article - State Government**

25 2-701.

26 In this subtitle, "Committee" means the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics.  
27 2-707.

28 (A) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUDGET OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE  
29 PRESIDENT AND SPEAKER JOINTLY SHALL APPOINT AN ATTORNEY TO SERVE AS  
30 COUNSEL TO THE COMMITTEE.

31 (B) THE COUNSEL SHALL:

32 (1) DEVOTE FULL TIME TO THE DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE;

33 (2) ADVISE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE  
34 REQUIREMENTS OF ANY APPLICABLE ETHICS LAW OR RULE;

1           (3)     ASSIST MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PREPARING  
2 STATEMENTS AND REPORTS REQUIRED TO BE FILED WITH THE COMMITTEE UNDER  
3 TITLE 15, SUBTITLE 5, PART II OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

4           (4)     AS DIRECTED BY THE PRESIDENT, SPEAKER, OR THE COMMITTEE,  
5 CARRY OUT ANY OTHER FUNCTION RELATED TO LEGISLATIVE ETHICS.

6     (C)     THE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE OTHER STAFF ASSISTANCE AS REQUESTED  
7 BY THE COMMITTEE AND AS PROVIDED IN THE BUDGET OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.  
8 15-513.1.

9     (A)     (1)     IN ADDITION TO THE STATEMENTS FILED WITH THE JOINT ETHICS  
10 COMMITTEE UNDER §§ 15-512(C) AND 15-513(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE JOINT ETHICS  
11 COMMITTEE SHALL MAINTAIN THE FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS FOR  
12 MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUBMITTED TO IT BY THE ETHICS  
13 COMMISSION UNDER § 15-602(B) OF THIS TITLE AND, DURING NORMAL OFFICE  
14 HOURS, MAKE THE STATEMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR EXAMINATION AND  
15 COPYING.

16           (2)     THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE MAY CHARGE A REASONABLE FEE  
17 AND ADOPT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR THE EXAMINATION AND COPYING  
18 OF A STATEMENT.

19     (B)     (1)     THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE SHALL MAINTAIN A RECORD OF:

20                   (I)     THE NAME AND HOME ADDRESS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO  
21 EXAMINES OR COPIES A STATEMENT UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

22                   (II)    THE NAME OF THE MEMBER WHOSE STATEMENT WAS  
23 EXAMINED OR COPIED.

24           (2)     THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE SHALL NOTIFY A MEMBER WHOSE  
25 STATEMENT IS EXAMINED OR COPIED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

26 15-602.

27     (A)     [Except] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION AND EXCEPT as  
28 otherwise provided in this subtitle, a statement filed under this section or §§ 15-603  
29 through 15-605 of this subtitle shall:

30           (1)     be filed with the Ethics Commission;

31           (2)     be filed under oath;

32           (3)     be filed on or before April 30 of each year;

33           (4)     cover the calendar year immediately preceding the year of filing; and

34           (5)     contain the information required in § 15-607 of this subtitle.

1     ~~(B)     A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL FILE A SINGLE COPY OF~~  
2 ~~EACH STATEMENT THE MEMBER IS REQUIRED TO FILE WITH THE COMMISSION~~  
3 ~~UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION WITH THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON~~  
4 ~~LEGISLATIVE ETHICS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.~~

5     (B)     UPON RECEIPT, THE ETHICS COMMISSION SHALL FORWARD A SINGLE  
6 COPY OF EACH STATEMENT FILED WITH THE ETHICS COMMISSION UNDER THIS  
7 SECTION BY A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE JOINT ETHICS  
8 COMMITTEE.

9     SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
10 effect October 1, 1998.