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By: **Delegates Fulton, Branch, and C. Mitchell**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 13, 1998

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ethics Law - Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics - Records**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that certain statements filed by members of the  
4 General Assembly with the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics may be  
5 examined by the public during regular business hours; requiring the Joint  
6 Committee to maintain a certain record when an individual examines a  
7 statement; requiring the Joint Committee to provide certain information to a  
8 member of the General Assembly on the member's request; and generally  
9 relating to the records of the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article - State Government  
12 Section 2-706  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
16 Article - State Government  
17 Section 15-606  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

22 **Article - State Government**

23 2-706.

24 (A) The Committee shall:

25 (1) perform all duties assigned to it by law or by legislative rules;

1 (2) from time to time, recommend to the presiding officers any changes  
2 in or amendments to the rules of legislative ethics;

3 (3) on request of a member of the General Assembly, issue an advisory  
4 opinion regarding the legislative ethics of an action taken or contemplated to be taken  
5 by the member;

6 (4) on its own motion, issue advisory opinions as it deems necessary;

7 (5) at the request of the President or the Speaker, make  
8 recommendations concerning matters referred to the Committee;

9 (6) as it deems necessary, issue guidelines and establish procedures for  
10 the implementation of the rules of legislative ethics; and

11 (7) maintain public records as the rules require.

12 (B) (1) THE COMMITTEE SHALL MAINTAIN THE STATEMENTS FILED BY  
13 MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER TITLE 15, SUBTITLE 5 OF THIS  
14 ARTICLE AND, DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS, MAKE THE STATEMENTS  
15 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR EXAMINATION AND COPYING.

16 (2) THE COMMITTEE SHALL MAINTAIN A RECORD OF:

17 (I) THE NAME AND HOME ADDRESS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO  
18 EXAMINES OR COPIES A STATEMENT FILED WITH THE COMMITTEE BY A MEMBER OF  
19 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND

20 (II) THE NAME OF THE MEMBER WHOSE STATEMENT WAS  
21 EXAMINED OR COPIED.

22 (3) ON THE REQUEST OF THE MEMBER WHOSE STATEMENT WAS  
23 EXAMINED OR COPIED, THE COMMITTEE SHALL FORWARD TO THE MEMBER A COPY  
24 OF THE RECORD MAINTAINED BY THE COMMITTEE UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS  
25 SUBSECTION.

26 15-606.

27 (a) (1) The Ethics Commission shall maintain the statements submitted  
28 under this subtitle and, during normal office hours, make the statements available to  
29 the public for examination and copying.

30 (2) The Ethics Commission may charge a reasonable fee and adopt  
31 administrative procedures for the examination and copying of a statement.

32 (b) (1) The Ethics Commission shall maintain a record of:

33 (i) the name and home address of each individual who examines or  
34 copies a statement under this section; and

1 (ii) the name of the individual whose statement was examined or  
2 copied.

3 (2) On the request of the individual whose statement was examined or  
4 copied, the Ethics Commission shall forward a copy of that record to that individual.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 1998.