

SENATE BILL 793

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1998 Regular Session  
8r2808  
CF HB 1383

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By: **Senators Conway, McFadden, Sfikas, Hughes, Jefferies, and Trotter**  
Constitutional Requirements Complied with for Introduction in the last 35 Days of  
Session  
Introduced and read first time: March 18, 1998  
Assigned to: Rules

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics - Rights of Accused Legislator**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying that a member of the General Assembly who has been  
4 accused of violating the Maryland Public Ethics Law is entitled to examine  
5 certain information, to know the identity of and cross-examine the accuser, and  
6 to call witnesses to testify on the legislator's behalf; and generally relating to the  
7 procedures of the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - State Government  
10 Section 15-515  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - State Government**

16 15-515.

17 (A) Any person may file with the Joint Ethics Committee a written statement,  
18 accompanied by an affidavit setting forth the facts upon which the statement is  
19 based, or the Joint Ethics Committee on its own may prepare a statement, alleging  
20 that a member may have violated standards of ethical conduct for legislators  
21 established by law or rule.

22 (B) IN AN INVESTIGATION UNDERTAKEN BY THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE  
23 UNDER THIS PART II OF THIS SUBTITLE, OR UNDER TITLE 2, SUBTITLE 7 OF THIS  
24 ARTICLE, THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE SHALL ALLOW THE ACCUSED LEGISLATOR  
25 TO:

1           (1)     EXAMINE ANY INFORMATION, IN THE POSSESSION OF THE JOINT  
2 ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT HAS A BEARING ON THE INVESTIGATION;

3           (2)     KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE ACCUSER;

4           (3)     CROSS-EXAMINE THE ACCUSER; AND

5           (4)     CALL ANY WITNESS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE  
6 LEGISLATOR'S BEHALF.

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