
By: **Delegate Fulton**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 1999

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public 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 1998 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 1998 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;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (II) THE NAME OF THE MEMBER WHOSE STATEMENT WAS
19 EXAMINED OR COPIED.

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

24 15-606.

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

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

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

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

33 (ii) the name of the individual whose statement was examined or
34 copied.

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

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
4 effect October 1, 1999.