

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 20

Unofficial Copy  
G2

1999 Regular Session  
(9r2023)

**ENROLLED RESOLUTION**

-- Commerce and Government Matters/Economic and Environmental Affairs --

Introduced by **Delegate Taylor**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this  
\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Ethics Law - Study Commission on Lobbyist Ethics**

3 FOR the purpose of creating a Study Commission on Lobbyist Ethics; providing for  
4 the appointment of the Commission; specifying the duties of the Commission;  
5 requiring the Commission to issue a certain report by a certain date; providing  
6 for the termination of the Commission; and generally relating to the Study  
7 Commission on Lobbyist Ethics.

8 WHEREAS, The Maryland Public Ethics Law was enacted in 1979 to assure the  
9 people of this State that the operations of government are free from improper  
10 influence and the appearance of improper influence; and

11 WHEREAS, The Ethics Law regulates not only officials and public employees,  
12 but also persons who lobby on behalf of private sector interests; and

13 WHEREAS, While officials and employees are subject to an extensive code of  
14 ethical conduct under the Ethics Law, regulated lobbyists are generally subject only  
15 to financial reporting requirements, administered by the State Ethics Commission;  
16 and

1 WHEREAS, Since the enactment of the Ethics Law 20 years ago, the business of  
2 lobbying has grown enormously, with a substantial increase in the number of  
3 regulated lobbyists, their compensation, and their impact on the legislative process  
4 and the functioning of the Executive Branch; and

5 ~~WHEREAS, Consideration should be given to moving the offices of the State~~  
6 ~~Ethics Commission, which regulates persons who lobby the Governor and General~~  
7 ~~Assembly, from Towson to Annapolis; and~~

8 WHEREAS, In 1998, the General Assembly created a special study commission  
9 to revise the law relating to legislative ethics, but did not authorize that commission  
10 to review the provisions of the Ethics Law relating to regulated lobbyists; and

11 WHEREAS, The people of Maryland have a right to be assured that the practice  
12 of lobbying is carried out in a way that enhances the public welfare and does not  
13 subject our government to improper influence or create the appearance of improper  
14 influence; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

16 (a) There is a Study Commission on Lobbyist Ethics.

17 (b) The Study Commission shall consist of the following ~~44~~ 13 members:

18 ~~(1) Three individuals, at least one of whom shall be a member of the~~  
19 ~~Senate of Maryland and one of whom shall be a regulated lobbyist, appointed by the~~  
20 ~~President of the Senate;~~

21 ~~(2) Three individuals, at least one of whom shall be a member of the~~  
22 ~~House of Delegates and one of whom shall be a regulated lobbyist, appointed by the~~  
23 ~~Speaker of the House; and~~

24 ~~(3) Five individuals, at least one of whom shall be a member of the State~~  
25 ~~Ethics Commission and one of whom shall be a regulated lobbyist, appointed by the~~  
26 ~~Governor.~~

27 (1) Four individuals appointed by the President of the Senate, including:

28 (i) At least two members of the Senate of Maryland;

29 (ii) A least one regulated lobbyist; and

30 (iii) If necessary to fill the four appointments allowed to the  
31 President under this paragraph, one additional individual;

32 (2) Four individuals appointed by the Speaker of the House, including:

33 (i) At least two members of the House of Delegates;

34 (ii) At least one regulated lobbyist; and

1                   (iii)    If necessary to fill the four appointments allowed to the Speaker  
 2 under this paragraph, one additional individual; and

3                   (3)    Five individuals appointed by the Governor, including:

4                   (i)    At least one member of the State Ethics Commission;

5                   (ii)   At least one regulated lobbyist;

6                   ~~(iii)    At least one representative of Common Cause/Maryland; and~~

7                   ~~(iv)    and~~

8                   (iii)   If necessary to fill the five appointments allowed to the  
 9 Governor under this paragraph, ~~one or two~~ two or three additional individuals.

10           (c)    The chairman of the Study Commission shall be designated jointly by the  
 11 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

12           (d)    The Department of Legislative Services and the State Ethics Commission  
 13 shall provide staff for the Study Commission.

14           (e)    The Study Commission shall:

15                   (1)    Examine the Maryland Public Ethics Law as it relates to regulated  
 16 lobbyists;

17                   (2)    Collect information about lobbying practices and standards of ethics  
 18 for regulated lobbyists, including provisions of law relating to the regulation of  
 19 lobbyists enacted by other jurisdictions;

20                   (3)    Receive testimony, as the Commission considers appropriate;

21                   (4)    Formulate a Code of Ethics for Lobbyists;

22                   (5)    ~~Consider whether the offices of the State Ethics Commission should~~  
 23 ~~be moved to Annapolis;~~

24                   ~~(6)~~    Propose any appropriate statutory changes to the Maryland Public  
 25 Ethics Law pertaining to regulated lobbyists; and

26                   ~~(7)~~    (6)    Report its findings to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of  
 27 the State Government Article, to the General Assembly not later than December 31,  
 28 1999.

29           (f)    The Study Commission shall terminate its existence after December 31,  
 30 1999; and be it further

31    RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
 32 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;

- 1 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
- 2 the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.