

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

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1999 Regular Session
(9r1469)

ENROLLED RESOLUTION

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

Introduced by **Senator Collins**

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.

President.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 A Senate 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 to
15 financial reporting requirements; 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, In 1998, the General Assembly created a special study commission
 6 to revise the law relating to legislative ethics, but did not authorize that commission
 7 to review the provisions of the Ethics Law relating to regulated lobbyists; and

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

12 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

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

14 (b) The Commission shall consist of the following ~~11~~ 13 members:

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

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

21 ~~(3) Five individuals, at least one of whom shall represent the State~~
 22 ~~Ethics Commission and one of whom shall be a regulated lobbyist, appointed by the~~
 23 ~~Governor.~~

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

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

27 (ii) At least one regulated lobbyist; and

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

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

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

33 (ii) At least one regulated lobbyist; and

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

- 1 (3) Five individuals appointed by the Governor, including:
2 (i) At least one member of the State Ethics Commission;
3 (ii) At least one regulated lobbyist; and
4 (iii) If necessary to fill the five appointments allowed to the
5 Governor under this paragraph, one or two additional individuals.

6 (c) The chairman of the Commission shall be designated jointly by the
7 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

8 (d) The Department of Legislative Services and the State Ethics
9 Commission shall provide staff for the Commission.

10 (e) The Commission shall:

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

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

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

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

18 (5) Propose any appropriate statutory changes to the Maryland
19 Public Ethics Law as it relates to lobbying; and

20 (6) Report its findings to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of
21 the State Government Article, to the General Assembly not later than December 31,
22 1999.

23 (f) The Commission shall terminate its existence after December 31,
24 1999; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
26 Legislative Services to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland;
27 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and
28 the Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.

