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2001 Regular Session 1lr0377

Du Constant Fuesh Astle County Dugan Hamis Dingley and Van Halley

By: Senators Frosh, Astle, Currie, Dyson, Harris, Pinsky, and Van Hollen

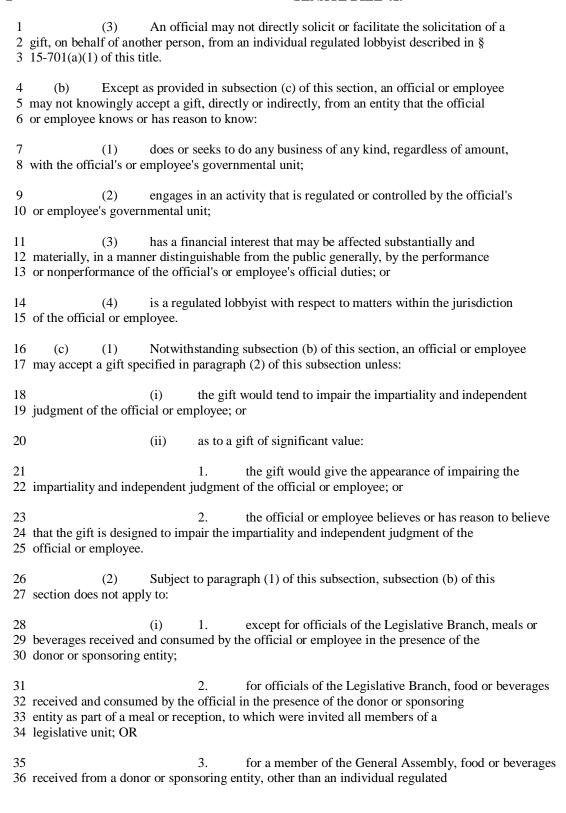
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2001 Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Ethics - Gifts of Food or Beverages at Meetings of Legislative Organizations

- 3 FOR the purpose of altering a provision of the Ethics Law that allows a member of the
- 4 General Assembly to accept gifts of food or beverages under certain
- 5 circumstances at a meeting of a legislative organization; and generally relating
- 6 to the acceptance of food or beverages from individual regulated lobbyists by
- 7 members of the General Assembly at meetings of a legislative organization.
- 8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 9 Article State Government
- 10 Section 15-505(a) and (b)
- 11 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 12 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)
- 13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 14 Article State Government
- 15 Section 15-505(c)
- 16 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 17 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)
- 18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- 20 Article State Government
- 21 15-505.
- 22 (a) (1) An official or employee may not solicit any gift.
- 23 (2) A regulated lobbyist described in subsection (b)(4) of this section may
- 24 not knowingly make a gift, directly or indirectly, to an official or employee that the
- 25 regulated lobbyist knows or has reason to know is in violation of this section.



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1 lobbyist described in § 15-701(a)(1) of this title, during a period when the General 2 Assembly is not in session, at a location that is within a county that contains the 3 member's district, provided that the donor or sponsoring entity is located within a 4 county that contains the member's district; or			
5 4. for a member of the General Assembly, food or beverages 6 received at the time and geographic location of a meeting of a legislative organization 7 for which the member's presiding officer has approved the member's attendance at 8 State expense, PROVIDED THAT ALL LEGISLATORS ATTENDING THE MEETING ARE 9 INVITED TO THE OCCASION AT WHICH THE FOOD OR BEVERAGES ARE SERVED;			
10	(i	i) cerei	monial gifts or awards of insignificant monetary value;
11 12 unsol	(ii cited gifts of nom		pt for a State official of the Executive or Legislative Branch,
	3 (iv) as to a State official of the Executive or Legislative Branch, 4 unsolicited gifts that are not meals or alcoholic beverages and that do not exceed \$20 5 in cost, from a regulated lobbyist;		
16	(v) trivia	al gifts of informational value;
17 (vi) in return for participation on a panel or a speaking engagement 18 at a meeting, reasonable expenses for food, travel, lodging, or scheduled 19 entertainment of the official or employee if the expenses are associated with the 20 meeting, except that, if such expenses for a State official of the Legislative or 21 Executive Branch are to be paid by a regulated lobbyist and are anticipated to exceed 22 \$500, the official shall notify the appropriate advisory body before attending the 23 meeting;			
24 (vii) as to a member of the General Assembly, reasonable expenses 25 for food, travel, lodging, or scheduled entertainment to attend a legislative conference 26 that has been approved by the member's presiding officer;			
	(viii) tickets or free admission extended to an elected constitutional officer from the person sponsoring or conducting the event, as a courtesy or ceremony to the office, to attend a charitable, cultural, or political event;		
30 31 this se	,		ecific gift or class of gifts exempted from subsection (b) of ion upon a written finding that:
32 33 detrin	nental to the impar	1. rtial conduct	acceptance of the gift or class of gifts would not be t of government; and
34		2.	the gift is purely personal and private in nature;
35	(x	a gif	t from:
36 37 marria	age; or	1.	an individual related to the official or employee by blood or

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- 1 2. any other individual who is a member of the household of 2 the official or employee; or 3 (xi) to the extent provided in subsection (d) of this section, 4 honoraria.
- 5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 6 October 1, 2001.