

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15

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2001 Regular Session
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By: **Senators Roesser, Colburn, Della, Green, Hafer, Harris, Hooper, Jacobs,
and Lawlah**

Introduced and read first time: February 19, 2001

Assigned to: Rules

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Study Commission on Governmental Lobbying**

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

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 currently regulates persons who lobby on behalf of
12 private sector interests, but does not regulate the lobbying activities of persons
13 employed by State entities or local governments; and

14 WHEREAS, Since the enactment of the Ethics Law 22 years ago, lobbying by
15 governmental entities has grown, with a substantial increase in the number of
16 individuals whose major activity in the legislative session is an effort to influence the
17 legislative process; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1999, the General Assembly created a special study commission
19 to study lobbyist ethics, but did not authorize that commission to study the lobbying
20 activities of governmental lobbyists; and

21 WHEREAS, The people of Maryland have a right to be assured that
22 governmental lobbying is carried out in a way that enhances the public welfare and
23 does not subject our government to improper influence or create the appearance of
24 improper influence; now, therefore, be it

25 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:**

26 (a) There is a Study Commission on Governmental Lobbying.

27 (b) The Commission shall consist of the following 13 members:

1 (1) Four individuals appointed by the President of the Senate, including
2 at least two members of the Senate of Maryland;

3 (2) Four individuals appointed by the Speaker of the House, including at
4 least two members of the House of Delegates;

5 (3) Five individuals appointed by the Governor, including at least one
6 representative of the State Ethics Commission.

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

9 (d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the
10 Commission.

11 (e) The Commission shall:

12 (1) Examine the Maryland Public Ethics Law as it relates to
13 governmental lobbying;

14 (2) Collect information about governmental lobbying practices and
15 standards of ethics for governmental lobbyists;

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

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

19 (5) Report its findings to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the
20 State Government Article, to the General Assembly not later than December 31, 2001.

21 (f) The Commission shall terminate its existence after December 31, 2001;
22 and be it further

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