

**Department of Legislative Services**

Maryland General Assembly

2001 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

House Bill 960

(Delegate Ports, *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

---

**Ethics Law - Governmental Lobbyists**

---

This bill provides that a public official or employee of the State, or a political subdivision of the State, whose official duties during the regular session of the General Assembly consist primarily of attempting to influence legislative action is not exempt from the lobbyist registration requirements.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Minimal increase in special fund revenues and general and special fund expenditures beginning in FY 2002.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Public officials and employees of the State and political subdivisions of the State are not required to register as lobbyists.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The State Ethics Commission advises that approximately 100 persons would be required to register in fiscal 2002 as a result of the bill's provisions, and that this number would grow by 10% each year thereafter. There is a \$20 annual registration fee for each registrant. This would increase special fee revenue by \$2,000 in fiscal 2002. General fund expenditures would increase by \$2,000 in fiscal 2002 for communications, travel, and supplies to inform the persons affected of the reporting and

other requirements of the Public Ethics Law. Future years would reflect the growth in registrations and inflation. It is assumed that State agencies would pay the lobbyist registration fees for their officials or employees using general or special funds.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** State Ethics Commission; Department of Budget and Management; Maryland Municipal League; Montgomery, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, and Garrett counties; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader – March 3, 2001  
ncs/jr

---

Analysis by: Christine A. Scott

Direct Inquiries to:  
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510