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By: **Delegate Wood**  
Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2002  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Lobbying - Ethics - Electronic Reporting**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that if certain reports filed electronically are required  
4 to be made under oath, the oath shall be made by a signed statement made  
5 expressly under the penalties for perjury in the report or attached to the report;  
6 providing that the signed statement is subject to the same penalties for perjury  
7 as an oath or affirmation made before an individual authorized to administer  
8 oaths; and generally relating to oaths in electronic reports made by lobbyists.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article - State Government  
11 Section 15-709  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article - State Government**

17 15-709.

18 (A) The State Ethics Commission shall develop procedures under which a  
19 report required under §§ 15-704 through 15-708 of this subtitle:

20 (1) may be filed electronically without additional cost to the individual  
21 who files the report; and

22 (2) shall be made available for public inspection electronically.

23 (B) (1) IF THE REPORT FILED ELECTRONICALLY UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF  
24 THIS SECTION IS REQUIRED TO BE MADE UNDER OATH OR AFFIRMATION, THE OATH  
25 OR AFFIRMATION SHALL BE MADE BY A SIGNED STATEMENT THAT:

26 (I) IS IN THE REPORT OR ATTACHED TO AND MADE PART OF THE  
27 REPORT; AND

1 (II) IS MADE EXPRESSLY UNDER THE PENALTIES FOR PERJURY.

2 (2) A SIGNED STATEMENT MADE UNDER PARAGRAPH (B)(1) OF THIS  
3 SECTION SUBJECTS THE INDIVIDUAL MAKING IT TO THE PENALTIES FOR PERJURY  
4 TO THE SAME EXTENT AS AN OATH OR AFFIRMATION MADE BEFORE AN INDIVIDUAL  
5 AUTHORIZED TO ADMINISTER OATHS.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 October 1, 2002.