

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 218 (Senator Kelley, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ethics - Lobbyists - Public Official Only as Member of a Board

This bill provides that, subject to review by the State Ethics Commission, a regulated lobbyist who becomes a public official only as a member of a board is not required to terminate his or her lobbyist registration.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A regulated lobbyist who becomes subject to regulation under the Public Ethics Law as a public official or employee is required to immediately terminate his or her lobbyist registration. There is an exemption for a regulated lobbyist appointed to an advisory governmental body of limited duration. Uncodified language in Chapter 631 of 2001 provides a "grandfather provision" for regulated lobbyists currently serving on boards and commissions. Specifically, it provides that a regulated lobbyist who, as of April 15, 2001, is an official subject to regulation under the Public Ethics Law would not be required to terminate his or her lobbyist registration until November 1, 2002.

Background: Chapter 631 of 2001 implemented the recommendations contained in the November 2000 *Report of the Study Commission on Lobbyist Ethics* including the

requirements for lobbyist registration and when a regulated lobbyist must terminate registration.

The State Ethics Commission has 7.6 staff members; for the lobbying year ending on October 31, 2000, it processed 2,082 lobbyist registrations (609 different lobbyists on behalf of 924 separate employers).

State Fiscal Effect: The State Ethics Commission advises that it would require an additional staff person, equipment, and supplies at an annual cost of approximately \$46,000 to review documentation related to each appointment of a regulated lobbyist to a board or commission.

The Department of Legislative Services advises that the number of registered lobbyists appointed to boards and commissions in a given year is most likely small, enabling existing resources to perform a review. If in the future the State Ethics Commission documents a large number of registered lobbyist appointments to boards and commissions, additional staff may be required.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Ethics Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 2002
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