

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

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

Ethics Law - Lobbyist Registration - Revocation

This bill alters the conditions for revocation or suspension of the registration of an individual regulated lobbyist by the Ethics Commission.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Ethics Commission could handle the required changes in its training program and informational material with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill removes a conviction of a criminal offense arising from lobbying activities as a basis for suspending the registration of an individual lobbyist, leaving a “knowing and willful” violation of the Public Ethics Law regarding lobbying as the single basis for suspending the registration of an individual lobbyist.

The bill also adds to the conditions for which revocation of an individual’s regulated lobbyist’s license is required by the Ethics Commission to include a conviction of: (1) a felony; (2) a misdemeanor arising from lobbying activities; or (3) bribery, theft, or a crime involving moral turpitude. A crime involving moral turpitude need not arise from any lobbying activity in order for a lobbyist’s registration to be revoked.

Current Law: If the Ethics Commission determines it necessary to protect the public interest and the integrity of the governmental process, the commission may issue an order to:

- suspend the registration of an individual regulated lobbyist if the commission determines that the individual regulated lobbyist: (1) has knowingly and willfully violated the Public Ethics Law regarding lobbying (subtitle 7); or (2) has been convicted of a criminal offense arising from lobbying activities.
- revoke the registration of an individual regulated lobbyist if the commission determines that, based on acts arising from lobbying activities, the individual regulated lobbyist has been convicted of bribery, theft, or other crime involving moral turpitude.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 2003
mdf/jr

Analysis by: Michelle L. Harrison-Davis

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510