HOUSE BILL 221

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24

2004 Regular Session 4lr0339

By: Delegates Bobo, Pendergrass, Barkley, Bronrott, Hubbard, Kaiser,

y: Delegates Bobo, Pendergrass, Barkley, Bronrott, Hubbard, Kaiser, Mandel, and Stocksdale

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2004

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

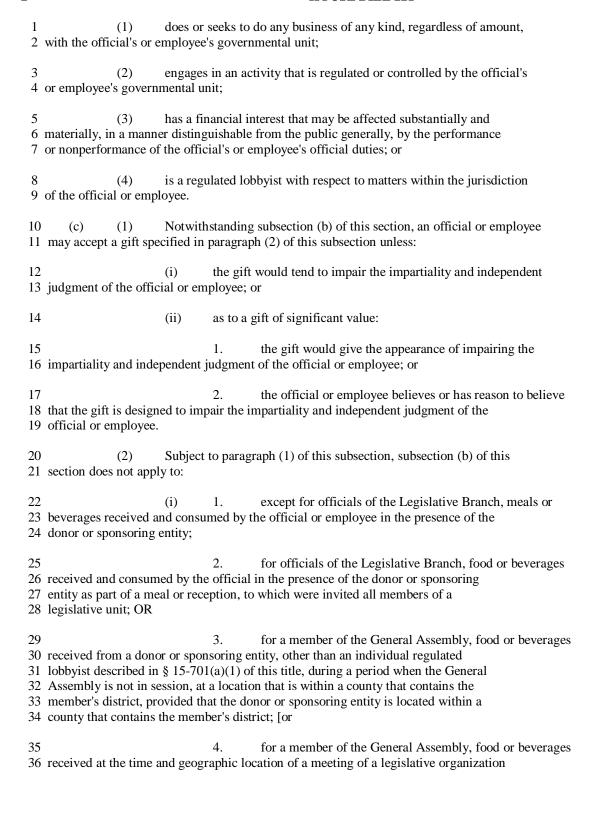
| | A BILL ENTITLED |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | AN ACT concerning |
| 2 | Ethics - Prohibition on Acceptance of Gifts by Legislators - Repeal of Exception |
| 4 5 6 7 8 9 | FOR the purpose of repealing an exception to the general gift acceptance prohibition that allows a legislator to accept food or beverages received at the time and geographic location of a meeting of a legislative organization for which the member's presiding officer has approved the member's attendance at State expense; and generally relating to acceptance of gifts by members of the General Assembly. |
| 10 11 12 13 | Section 15-505(b) Annotated Code of Maryland |
| 15 16 17 18 | Section 15-505(c) Annotated Code of Maryland |
| 20 21 | SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: |
| 22 | Article - State Government |
| 23 | 15-505. |

Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, an official or employee

25 may not knowingly accept a gift, directly or indirectly, from an entity that the official

26 or employee knows or has reason to know:

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| | for which the member's presiding officer has approved the member's attendance at State expense;] | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|--------|------------|---|--|--|
| 3 | | (ii) | ceremor | aial gifts or awards of insignificant monetary value; | | |
| 4 5 | (iii) except for a State official of the Executive or Legislative Branch, unsolicited gifts of nominal value; | | | | | |
| | (iv) as to a State official of the Executive or Legislative Branch, unsolicited gifts that are not meals or alcoholic beverages and that do not exceed \$20 in cost, from a regulated lobbyist; | | | | | |
| 9 | | (v) | trivial g | ifts of informational value; | | |
| 12 13 14 15 | (vi) in return for participation on a panel or a speaking engagement at a meeting, reasonable expenses for food, travel, lodging, or scheduled entertainment of the official or employee if the expenses are associated with the meeting, except that, if such expenses for a State official of the Legislative or Executive Branch are to be paid by a regulated lobbyist and are anticipated to exceed \$500, the official shall notify the appropriate advisory body before attending the meeting; | | | | | |
| | (vii) as to a member of the General Assembly, reasonable expenses for food, travel, lodging, or scheduled entertainment to attend a legislative conference that has been approved by the member's presiding officer; | | | | | |
| | 0 (viii) tickets or free admission extended to an elected constitutional 1 officer from the person sponsoring or conducting the event, as a courtesy or ceremony 2 to the office, to attend a charitable, cultural, or political event; | | | | | |
| 23 24 | (ix) a specific gift or class of gifts exempted from subsection (b) of this section by the Ethics Commission upon a written finding that: | | | | | |
| 25 26 | 1. acceptance of the gift or class of gifts would not be detrimental to the impartial conduct of government; and | | | | | |
| 27 | | | 2. | the gift is purely personal and private in nature; | | |
| 28 | | (x) | a gift fro | om: | | |
| 29 30 | marriage; or | | 1. | an individual related to the official or employee by blood or | | |
| 31 32 | the official or employe | ee; or | 2. | any other individual who is a member of the household of | | |
| 33 34 | honoraria. | (xi) | to the ex | ttent provided in subsection (d) of this section, | | |
| 35 36 | 5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take 6 effect October 1, 2004. | | | | | |