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By: **Delegates Bobo, V. Clagett, Hubbard, and Mandel**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2004

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Study Commission to Study the Public's Access to Public Records**

3 FOR the purpose of creating a Study Commission to Study the Public's Access to  
4 Public Records; providing for the membership of the Study Commission;  
5 requiring the Study Commission to elect its chairman; requiring the  
6 Department of Legislative Services to staff the Study Commission; entitling  
7 certain members to certain reimbursements; requiring the Study Commission to  
8 examine and review certain provisions in the Annotated Code; requiring the  
9 Study Commission to make certain recommendations, propose certain  
10 legislation, and submit a certain report by a certain date; providing for the  
11 termination of the Study Commission; and generally relating to the Study  
12 Commission to Study the Public's Access to Public Records.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That:

15 (a) There is a Study Commission to Study the Public's Access to Public  
16 Records.

17 (b) The Study Commission consists of 13 members as follows:

18 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
19 the Senate;

20 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
21 the House;

22 (3) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee; and

23 (4) 10 members, appointed by the Governor as follows:

24 (i) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

25 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of  
26 Education;

27 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Municipal League;

- 1 (iv) one representative of the Maryland - Delaware - DC Press  
2 Association;
- 3 (v) one representative of the Maryland - DC - Delaware  
4 Broadcasters Association;
- 5 (vi) one representative of the American Civil Liberties Union of  
6 Maryland;
- 7 (vii) one representative of Common Cause Maryland;
- 8 (viii) one representative of the Maryland Public Interest Research  
9 Group;
- 10 (ix) one representative of Progressive Maryland; and
- 11 (x) one public member at large.

12 (c) The Study Commission shall elect a chairman from among its members.

13 (d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Study  
14 Commission.

15 (e) A member of the Study Commission:

16 (1) may not receive compensation; but

17 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
18 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

19 (f) The Study Commission shall:

20 (1) examine Title 10, Subtitle 6 of the State Government Article relating  
21 to the public's access to public records;

22 (2) review § 10-616 of the State Government Article assessing  
23 elimination or a sunset date for provisions that are obsolete or will become obsolete in  
24 the near future; and

25 (3) make recommendations and propose legislation to effectuate its  
26 findings.

27 (g) The Study Commission shall report its recommendations and proposed  
28 legislation to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government  
29 Article, the General Assembly, on or before November 1, 2004.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31 July 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 months and, at the end of  
32 November 30, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
33 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.