

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2004 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 611 (Delegate Miller, *et al.*)  
Environmental Matters

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**Ethics Files - Public Examination**

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This bill requires an individual who examines or copies conflict of interest or financial disclosure statements filed under the Public Ethics Law to present a form of identification issued by a government unit that contains a photograph of the individual.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill is procedural in nature and would not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The Joint Committee on Ethics is required to maintain conflict of interest statements filed by members of the General Assembly under the Public Ethics Law. Statements must be made available to the public for examination and copying during normal office hours. Similarly, the State Ethics Commission and the Joint Committee on Ethics is required to maintain financial disclosure statements filed under the Public Ethics Law and make the statements available for examination and copying during normal business hours. The commission and the committee may adopt administrative procedures and charge a reasonable fee for examination and copying of the disclosure documents.

**Background:** The State Ethics Commission has received several requests from filers to withhold the home address and other information reported by filers from certain individuals who examine public disclosure documents, such as a person who is subject to a restraining order. In order to comply with these requests, the identification of individuals requesting to examine a disclosure statement is necessary.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 1, 2004  
mam/mdr

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