

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 608

(Delegate Miller, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Ethics - Financial Disclosure Statements - Sources of Earned Income

This bill provides that an individual is not required to include a listing of a minor child's employment or business entity of which the child is a sole or partial owner on the financial disclosure statement required under the Public Ethics Law unless the place of employment or the business entity is: (1) subject to the regulation or authority of the agency that employs the individual; or (2) has contracts in excess of \$10,000 with the agency that employs the individual. The bill also clarifies that all secondary employment of the individual or member of the individual's immediate family be reported on the statement.

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.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Public Ethics Law requires an official and a candidate for office as a State official to file an annual financial disclosure statement which must include the following schedules:

- Interests in Real Property;
- Interests in Corporations and Partnerships;
- Interests in Business Entities Doing Business with the State;
- Gifts;
- Employment or Interest in Business Entities Doing Business with the State;
- Indebtedness to an Entity Doing Business with the State;
- Family Members Employed by the State;
- Sources of Earned Income; and
- Additional Information.

The Sources of Earned Income schedule requires an individual to disclose the name and address of each place of salaried employment of the individual and the individual's immediate family at any time during the reporting period and each business entity of which the individual or family member is a sole or partial owner, and from which the individual or family member received earned income during the reporting period.

Background: The State Ethics Commission has identified several categories of information required on the annual financial disclosure statement that it believes have become too onerous and provide the commission and the public with little insight into possible conflicts. The bill reflects the commission's recommendations in this regard.

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
n/mdr

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