
By: **Delegates Howard, Barkley, Bartlett, Benson, Burns, Conroy, Elmore, Feldman, Goldwater, Heller, Mandel, Marriott, Montgomery, Nathan-Pulliam, Parker, Patterson, Petzold, Stern, F. Turner, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2005

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Ethics - Complaints - Copy to Legislator**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Joint Ethics Committee to provide a copy of a
4 certain complaint to the legislator who is the subject of the complaint; requiring
5 the Joint Ethics Committee to redact the name of the complainant and other
6 identifying information from a certain complaint; and generally relating to
7 complaints filed with the Joint Ethics Committee.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article - State Government

10 Section 15-515

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2004 Replacement Volume)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - State Government**

16 15-515.

17 (a) A complaint alleging that a member of the General Assembly may have
18 violated standards of ethical conduct, including § 2-108 of this article, may be filed
19 with the Joint Ethics Committee by:

20 (1) a written statement from any person, accompanied by an affidavit
21 setting forth the facts upon which the statement is based;

22 (2) motion of a majority of the membership of the Joint Ethics
23 Committee; or

24 (3) referral of a matter to the Joint Ethics Committee by a presiding
25 officer of the General Assembly as provided in § 2-706(a)(5) of this article.

1 (b) (1) (I) The Joint Ethics Committee shall provide a copy of each
2 complaint filed under subsection (a) of this section to the presiding officer of the house
3 of the legislator who is the subject of the complaint.

4 [(2)] (II) Based on the information contained in a complaint provided to a
5 presiding officer under [paragraph (1)] SUBPARAGRAPH (I) of this [subsection]
6 PARAGRAPH, if a presiding officer determines that it is inappropriate for a Joint
7 Ethics Committee member from that house to consider a particular matter, the
8 presiding officer shall appoint a substitute member of the Joint Ethics Committee for
9 the purposes of consideration of the matter.

10 (2) (I) THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF A
11 COMPLAINT FILED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO THE LEGISLATOR
12 WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF THE COMPLAINT.

13 (II) PRIOR TO PROVIDING A COPY OF THE COMPLAINT TO THE
14 LEGISLATOR UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE JOINT ETHICS
15 COMMITTEE SHALL REDACT THE NAME OF THE COMPLAINANT AND ANY OTHER
16 IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2005.