

HOUSE BILL 755

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HB 209/07 – ENV

8lr2525

By: **Delegates Howard, George, Ivey, James, and V. Turner**
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2008
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 Committee on Legislative Ethics to provide a
4 copy of a complaint to the legislator who is the subject of the complaint;
5 requiring the Joint Committee to redact the name of the complainant and other
6 identifying information from the complaint; and generally relating to
7 complaints filed with the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – State Government
10 Section 15–515
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

15 (II) **PRIOR TO PROVIDING A COPY OF THE COMPLAINT TO**
16 **THE LEGISLATOR, THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE SHALL REDACT THE NAME**
17 **OF THE COMPLAINANT AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT IDENTIFIES THE**
18 **COMPLAINANT.**

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2008.