

HOUSE BILL 1272

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5lr1693

By: **Delegates Carr, Anderton, Flanagan, Fraser-Hidalgo, Hill, Holmes, Knotts,
Lam, McCray, Otto, S. Robinson, and Stein**

Introduced and read first time: March 9, 2015

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Lobbying – Legislative Unit Meals and Receptions – Publication of Report**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Legislative Services to post on the Web
4 site of the General Assembly a certain legislative unit registration report that
5 includes information on certain meals and receptions; and generally relating to
6 public ethics, lobbying, and legislative unit meals and receptions.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 5–709

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2014 Volume)

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

14 **Article – General Provisions**

15 5–709.

16 (a) A regulated lobbyist who invites all members of a legislative unit to a meal or
17 reception shall, at least 5 days before the date of the meal or reception:

18 (1) extend a written invitation to all members of the legislative unit; and

19 (2) register the meal or reception with the Department of Legislative
20 Services on a form required by the Ethics Commission.

21 (b) A legislative unit registration report required under subsection (a) of this
22 section shall include:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) the date and location of the meal or reception; and

2 (2) the name of the legislative unit invited.

3 (c) (1) Based on information contained in a legislative unit registration report
4 filed under subsection (a) of this section, the Department of Legislative Services shall
5 publish **AND POST ON THE WEB SITE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY** once a week a list
6 containing the date and location of each upcoming meal or reception and the name of the
7 legislative unit invited.

8 (2) (i) The Department of Legislative Services shall allow public
9 inspection of any legislative unit registration report required under this section during
10 regular business hours.

11 (ii) Within 3 business days after receipt of a legislative unit
12 registration report required under this section, the Department of Legislative Services
13 shall forward the original registration report to the Ethics Commission.

14 (iii) The Department of Legislative Services shall maintain a
15 photocopy or electronic copy of each registration report required under this section.

16 (d) (1) (i) A regulated lobbyist who is required to register under subsection
17 (a) of this section shall report the total cost of the meal or reception, and the name of each
18 sponsor who contributes to the cost and the amount of the contribution, to the Ethics
19 Commission within 14 days after the date of the meal or reception.

20 (ii) If any information required under subparagraph (i) of this
21 paragraph is not known within 14 days after the date of the meal or reception, the regulated
22 lobbyist shall, as to the information not known, specify the nature and estimate the amount
23 of each item.

24 (2) If all of the information required by paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection
25 is reported accurately and completely, the regulated lobbyist is not required to report the
26 cost of the meal or reception under § 5-705(b)(2)(vii) of this subtitle.

27 (3) The Ethics Commission shall allow public inspection of each
28 registration report required under this subsection during regular business hours.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2015.