

# SENATE BILL 343

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By: **Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request  
– Departmental – State Ethics Commission)**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Ethics – Advisory Bodies – Advisory Opinions and Informal Advice**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain advisory bodies to issue informal advice; specifying  
4 that informal advice provided by certain advisory bodies is confidential and not  
5 subject to certain requirements of the Public Ethics Law; and generally relating to  
6 informal advice by certain advisory bodies to certain entities under the Public Ethics  
7 Law.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – General Provisions  
10 Section 5–301  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2014 Volume)

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

15 **Article – General Provisions**

16 5–301.

17 (a) **(1)** [On] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, ON** written  
18 request of an entity subject to this title, the appropriate advisory body shall issue an  
19 advisory opinion regarding the application of this title.

20 **[(b)] (2)** On written request of any other entity, the appropriate advisory body  
21 may issue an advisory opinion.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) (1) THE APPROPRIATE ADVISORY BODY MAY ISSUE INFORMAL**  
2 **ADVICE INSTEAD OF AN ADVISORY OPINION.**

3           **(2) INFORMATION RELATED TO INFORMAL ADVICE PROVIDED UNDER**  
4 **THIS SUBSECTION SHALL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE**  
5 **REQUIREMENTS OF § 5-303 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

6           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
7 1, 2015.