

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 234

(Delegate Tarlau, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ethics - Executive Branch - Lobbying by Former Officials

This bill prohibits former State officials of the Executive Branch and former public officials of the Executive Branch who had duties substantially related to State legislative matters and the General Assembly from assisting or representing another party for compensation in a manner that is the subject of legislative action for one year from the date the former official leaves State employment. However, the former State or public official may represent a municipal corporation, county, or State governmental entity during that time period.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A “regulated lobbyist” is a person or entity required under the Maryland Public Ethics Law to register with the State Ethics Commission because the person or entity generally has made certain expenditures and/or received certain compensation to influence legislative or executive action.

A former member of the General Assembly may not assist or represent another party for compensation in a matter that is the subject of legislative action until the conclusion of the next regular session that begins after a member leaves office. The prohibition does not apply to a former member's representation of a municipal corporation, county, or State governmental entity.

A former official or employee other than a General Assembly member may not assist or represent a party, other than the State, in a case, contract, or other specific matter for compensation that involves State government if the former official or employee participated significantly in the matter while employed by the State.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Ethics Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2015
md/kdm Revised - House Third Reader - March 23, 2015

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