A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Ethics – Local Governments – Registration of Lobbyists

FOR the purpose of establishing requirements for model lobbying registration provisions that are adopted by the State Ethics Commission for local governments; requiring lobbying provisions adopted by local governments to be similar to a certain law, rather than substantially similar; and generally relating to the lobbying provisions of local governments.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – General Provisions
Section 5–205(b) and 5–810
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – General Provisions
Section 5–807(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – General Provisions

5–205.

(b) (1) The Ethics Commission shall adopt by regulation model provisions for local governments and school boards on:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(i) conflicts of interest;

(ii) financial disclosure; and

(iii) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, regulation of lobbying.

(2) Model provisions adopted under paragraph (1) of this subsection may be:

(i) adopted by any local jurisdiction or school board; or

(ii) imposed on a local jurisdiction or school board in accordance with Subtitle 8 of this title.

(3) (I) THE MODEL LOBBYING PROVISIONS ADOPTED BY THE ETHICS COMMISSION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHALL REQUIRE AN ENTITY THAT ENGAGES IN LOBBYING ACTIVITIES COMPARABLE TO THOSE IDENTIFIED IN § 5–702(A)(1) AND (2) OF THIS TITLE TO REGISTER WITH THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE LOBBYING PROVISIONS AND BE A REGULATED LOBBYIST UNDER THE LOBBYING PROVISIONS.

(ii) THE MODEL LOBBYING PROVISIONS ADOPTED BY THE ETHICS COMMISSION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MAY REQUIRE AN ENTITY TO REGISTER WITH THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE LOBBYING PROVISIONS AND BE A REGULATED LOBBYIST IF THE ENTITY ENGAGES IN OTHER FORMS OF LOBBYING.

5–807.

(a) Subject to § 5–209 of this title, each county and each municipal corporation shall enact provisions to govern the public ethics of local officials relating to:

(1) conflicts of interest;

(2) financial disclosure; and

(3) lobbying.

5–810.

The lobbying provisions enacted by a county or municipal corporation under § 5–807 of this subtitle:
(1) shall be [substantially] similar to the provisions of Subtitle 7 of this title; but

(2) (i) shall be modified to the extent necessary to make the provisions relevant to that jurisdiction; and

(ii) may be further modified to the extent considered necessary and appropriate by and for that jurisdiction.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.