A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Public Ethics – Former Employees and Officials – Employment Restriction

FOR the purpose of altering the prohibition on a former State employee or official representing or assisting a party for compensation on certain matters to limit it to a certain period after leaving State office; and generally relating to public ethics and former officials and employees.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – General Provisions

Section 5–504(d)

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

5–504.

(d) (1) Except for a former member of the General Assembly, who shall be subject to the restrictions provided under paragraph (2) of this subsection, FOR 1 YEAR FROM THE DATE AN OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE LEAVES STATE OFFICE, a former official or employee may not assist or represent a party, other than the State, in a case, a contract, or any other specific matter for compensation if:

(i) the matter involves State government; and

(ii) the former official or employee participated significantly in the matter as an official or employee.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(2) (i) In this paragraph, “legislative action” does not include testimony or other advocacy in an official capacity as a member of the General Assembly before a unit of State or local government.

(ii) Except as provided in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph:

   1. 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 for 1 calendar year from the date the member leaves office; and

   2. a former Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, State Treasurer, or secretary of a principal department of the Executive Branch may not assist or represent another party for compensation in a matter that is the subject of legislative action for 1 calendar year from the date the official leaves State office.

(iii) The limitation under subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph on representation by a former member of the General Assembly, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, State Treasurer, or secretary of a principal department of the Executive Branch does not apply to representation of a municipal corporation, county, or State governmental entity.

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