

HOUSE BILL 521

G2

4lr1697

By: **St. Mary's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County – Public Ethics – Prohibition on Campaign Contributions**
3 **From Individual Registered Lobbyists**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting an individual registered lobbyist who is engaged to lobby
5 on behalf of any unit of the government of St. Mary's County from making a personal
6 political contribution to certain individuals who represent St. Mary's County; and
7 generally relating to public ethics and campaign contributions in St. Mary's County.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – General Provisions

10 Section 5–715

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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 5–715.

17 (a) In this section, “candidate”, “contribution”, and “political committee” have the
18 meanings stated in § 1–101 of the Election Law Article.

19 (b) (1) This section applies only to a regulated lobbyist described in §
20 5–702(a)(1), (2), (3), or (4) of this subtitle.

21 (2) This section does not apply to a regulated lobbyist who is a candidate
22 with respect to the regulated lobbyist's own campaign.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) The restrictions in this section apply from the starting date of the regulated
2 lobbyist's registration to the end of the calendar year in which the registration period ends.

3 (d) (1) For the benefit of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney
4 General, or Comptroller, or a member of the General Assembly, or a candidate for election
5 to the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, or member
6 of the General Assembly, a regulated lobbyist who is subject to this section or a person
7 acting on behalf of the regulated lobbyist may not:

8 (i) solicit or transmit a political contribution from any person,
9 including a political committee;

10 (ii) serve on a fund-raising committee or a political committee;

11 (iii) act as a treasurer for a candidate or an official or as treasurer or
12 chair of a political committee;

13 (iv) organize or establish a political committee for the purpose of
14 soliciting or transmitting contributions from any person; or

15 (v) forward tickets for fund-raising activities, or other solicitations
16 for political contributions, to a potential contributor.

17 (2) This section does not prohibit a regulated lobbyist from:

18 (i) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION,**
19 making a personal political contribution;

20 (ii) informing any entity of a position taken by a candidate or an
21 official; or

22 (iii) engaging in other activities not specifically prohibited under
23 paragraph (1) of this subsection.

24 **(E) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY TO AN INDIVIDUAL REGISTERED**
25 **LOBBYIST WHO IS ENGAGED TO LOBBY ON BEHALF OF ANY UNIT OF THE**
26 **GOVERNMENT OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY.**

27 **(2) FOR THE BENEFIT OF A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
28 **WHO REPRESENTS ANY PART OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY, A MEMBER OF THE**
29 **COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY, OR ANY OTHER STATE OR LOCAL**
30 **OFFICIAL WHO IS ELECTED TO REPRESENT ONLY ST. MARY'S COUNTY, AN**
31 **INDIVIDUAL REGULATED LOBBYIST MAY NOT MAKE A PERSONAL POLITICAL**
32 **CONTRIBUTION.**

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2024.