

Chapter 102

(House Bill 269)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Public Ethics Law – Financial Disclosure Statements – State Officials of and Candidates to Be a State Official of the Judicial Branch

FOR the purpose of clarifying certain duties of the Commission on Judicial Disabilities and the Judicial Ethics Committee; requiring the Administrative Office of the Courts or another body designated by the Supreme Court of Maryland to administer and implement certain provisions of law relating to financial disclosure statements for State officials of the Judicial Branch and candidates to be a State official of the Judicial Branch and maintain and make available to the public the records and statements of State officials of the Judicial Branch and candidates to be a State official of the Judicial Branch; repealing a requirement that the Supreme Court of Maryland transmit copies of certain statements to the State Ethics Commission; and generally relating to statements for State officials of and candidates to be a State official of the Judicial Branch.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – General Provisions

Section 5–104 and 5–606

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – General Provisions

Section 5–610(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing

Article – General Provisions

Section 5–610(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – General Provisions

5–104.

(a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section and in § 5–871 of this title, this title shall be administered and implemented by the Ethics Commission.

(b) The Joint Ethics Committee, acting as an advisory body, shall administer and implement Subtitle 5 of this title as **[it] THAT SUBTITLE** applies to members of the General Assembly.

(c) **(1)** The Commission on Judicial Disabilities, the Judicial Ethics Committee, or another body designated by the Supreme Court of Maryland, acting as an advisory body, shall administer and implement **[Subtitles 5 and 6] SUBTITLE 5** of this title as **[those subtitles apply] THAT SUBTITLE APPLIES** to State officials of the Judicial Branch **AND CANDIDATES TO BE A STATE OFFICIAL OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH.**

(2) THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS OR ANOTHER BODY DESIGNATED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND, ACTING AS AN ADVISORY BODY, SHALL ADMINISTER AND IMPLEMENT SUBTITLE 6 OF THIS TITLE AS THAT SUBTITLE APPLIES TO STATE OFFICIALS OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND CANDIDATES TO BE A STATE OFFICIAL OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH.

5–606.

(a) (1) (i) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection **OR SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION**, the Ethics Commission and the Joint Ethics Committee shall maintain the statements submitted under this subtitle and, during normal office hours, make the statements available to the public for examination and copying.

(ii) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Ethics Commission and the Joint Ethics Committee may charge a reasonable fee and adopt administrative procedures for the examination and copying of a statement.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, for statements submitted on or after January 1, 2019, the Ethics Commission shall make freely available to the public on the Internet, through an online registration program, a **[financial disclosure]** statement required under § 5–601(a) of this subtitle and a preliminary disclosure required under § 5–602(c) of this subtitle that is filed by:

(i) a State official **OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OR THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH;**

(ii) a candidate for office as a State official **OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OR THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH;** or

(iii) a secretary of a principal department in the Executive Branch.

(3) The Ethics Commission and the Joint Ethics Committee may not:

(i) provide public access to a portion of a statement that is filed after January 1, 2019, and that includes an individual's home address that the individual has identified as the individual's home address; or

(ii) post on the Internet information related to consideration received that is reported under § 5–607(j) of this subtitle.

(b) (1) The Ethics Commission and the Joint Ethics Committee shall maintain a record of:

(i) the name and home address of each individual who examines or copies a statement under **SUBSECTION (A) OF** this section; and

(ii) the name of the individual whose statement was examined or copied.

(2) On the request of the individual whose statement was examined or copied, the Ethics Commission or the Joint Ethics Committee shall forward to that individual a copy of the record specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(C) THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS OR ANOTHER BODY DESIGNATED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND SHALL:

(1) MAINTAIN THE RECORDS OF STATE OFFICIALS OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH AND CANDIDATES TO BE A STATE OFFICIAL OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH; AND

(2) MAKE THE STATEMENTS SUBMITTED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR EXAMINATION AND COPYING DURING NORMAL OFFICE HOURS.

5–610.

(a) In accordance with its administrative authority over the Judicial Branch under the Maryland Constitution, the Supreme Court of Maryland shall adopt and administer rules that require each individual specified in § 5–601(b) of this subtitle to file a statement periodically that discloses, as a public record, the information concerning the individual's financial affairs that the court considers necessary or appropriate to promote continued trust and confidence in the integrity of the Judicial Branch.

[(c) Within 30 days after receiving a statement under this section, the Supreme Court of Maryland or its designee shall transmit a copy of the statement to the Ethics Commission.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2026.