

Chapter 558

(House Bill 328)

AN ACT concerning

Bicounty Commissions – Public Ethics – Financial Disclosure Statements**PG/MC 105–26**

FOR the purpose of requiring an applicant for appointment as a commissioner of a bicounty commission to submit a certain statement to the Prince George’s County Office of Ethics and Accountability; requiring the chief administrative officer for Prince George’s County to transmit the financial disclosure statements of commissioners or appointed applicants of bicounty commissions to the Office; requiring the Office, rather than the chief administrative officer for Prince George’s County, to retain the statements, return the statements to certain applicants under certain circumstances, provide certain notice to the State Ethics Commission, record certain information of individuals examining or copying the statement, and maintain, make available, and establish procedures governing the inspection of the statements; and generally relating to financial disclosure statements for commissioners and applicants for appointment as commissioners of bicounty commissions.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – General Provisions

Section 5–822, 5–824(c)(1) and (2), and 5–825(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – General Provisions

Section 5–825(b)(1), 5–826, and 5–827

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

5–822.

In this part, “commissioner” means a commissioner of a bicounty commission.

5–824.

(c) (1) Each commissioner shall file a financial disclosure statement electronically with the Ethics Commission.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, each commissioner shall also print a paper copy of the electronically filed financial disclosure statement and submit it to the chief administrative officer of the county from which the commissioner is appointed.

5-825.

(a) An applicant for appointment as commissioner shall file the financial disclosure statement required by this part electronically with the Ethics Commission.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an applicant shall also print a paper copy of the electronically filed statement and submit it to:

(I) the chief administrative officer of the county from which the applicant seeks appointment; AND

(II) **IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

5-826.

(a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the chief administrative officer of a county shall transmit each financial disclosure statement of a commissioner or appointed applicant to the executive director of the appropriate bicounty commission **AND, IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

(2) In Montgomery County, the county council shall transmit each financial disclosure statement of a commissioner or appointed applicant to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to the executive director of the commission.

(b) **The FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES FOR THE ENTIRE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER:**

(1) **THE** executive director [and];

(2) **IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY,** the chief administrative officer [shall retain the statement for the entire term of office of the commissioner]; **AND**

(3) IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(c) (1) [Within 15 days after an appointment to a bicounty commission has become final, if] **IF** an applicant provided a paper copy of a financial disclosure **STATEMENT, THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES, WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER AN APPOINTMENT TO A BICOUNTY COMMISSION HAS BECOME FINAL, SHALL RETURN TO EACH APPLICANT WHO IS NOT APPOINTED THE ORIGINAL AND ALL COPIES OF THE STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY THAT APPLICANT:**

(I) the county council [and];

(II) **IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY**, the chief administrative officer [of the county involved shall return to each applicant who is not appointed the original and all copies of the statement submitted by that applicant]; **AND**

(III) **IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

(2) On notification by the chief administrative officer [of the county involved] **FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY OR THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY** that an applicant was not appointed, the Ethics Commission shall promptly delete the **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE** statement electronically filed by the applicant.

5-827.

(a) The Ethics Commission, the executive director of each bicounty commission, [and] the chief administrative officer [of each county] **FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, AND THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY:**

(1) shall maintain financial disclosure statements of commissioners and appointed applicants received under this part;

(2) shall make the statements available to the public for examination and copying during normal office hours; and

(3) may charge a reasonable fee and adopt reasonable administrative procedures for the examination and copying of a statement.

(b) The Ethics Commission, the executive director of each bicounty commission, [and] the chief administrative officer [of each county] **FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, AND THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY** shall require that any person examining or copying a statement shall record:

- (1) the person's name and home address; and
- (2) the name of the individual whose statement was examined or copied.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2026.