



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

March 23, 2022

TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 59, *Ethics – Local Governments – Registration of Lobbyists*
Support

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 59, *Local Governments – Registration of Lobbyists*, which requires that the scope of lobbying activities governed by local ethics laws be comparable to the scope of lobbying activities governed by the State Ethics Law. House Bill 59 retains the general authority granted to counties and municipalities to enact laws that are substantially similar to the State Ethics Law. However, it expressly provides that local ethics laws must require any entity that engages in lobbying activities comparable to those that are identified in the State Ethics Law regarding State-level lobbying (§5-207 of the General Provisions Article) to register with the appropriate local agency and be treated as a regulated lobbyist at the local level. The bill also requires the State Ethics Commission to modify current regulations that establish model provisions for local ethics laws to reflect this new requirement.

I think it serves the public interest to require that the scope of lobbying activities regulated at the local level be comparable to the scope of lobbying activities regulated at the State level and respectfully request that the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee give this bill a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee