

Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee, Maryland Senate
HB0059, Ethics - Local Government - Registration of Lobbyists
Support

Chair Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee,

I support [HB0059](#), legislation requiring lobbying registration and establishing provisions for local governments.

This legislation addresses an actual issue and will boost transparency and accountability, key attributes of good government.

I served two terms as an elected member of the Takoma Park City Council. I can think of three instances when paid lobbyists interacted with me and with city officials in private or testified before the council as a whole:

- A container-company regional vice president, accompanied by a government-relations contractor, lobbied me and colleagues in opposition to a community-initiated city ban on polystyrene food serviceware.
- A pesticide-industry association representative lobbied me and colleagues in opposition to city legislation, again initiated by community members, to ban lawn-care pesticides.
- Real-estate attorneys and a government-relations firm approached city officials and lobbied councilmembers regarding a pending development proposal that faced community opposition.

These are simply examples. These lobbyist activities and others like them should have been formally registered and disclosed, but they weren't as there was no municipal requirement.

HB0059 would create much needed lobbying provisions for Maryland local governments. Please give this legislation a favorable committee report and work toward enactment by the Senate as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Seth Grimes

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