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Legislative District 18  
Montgomery County

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Subcommittees*

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals  
Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care

*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
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**Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 59**  
**Ethics - Local Government - Registration of Lobbyists**  
**January 20, 2022**

House Bill 59 is designed to strengthen lobbying provisions within Local ethics ordinances.

Under current law, Maryland's Counties and Municipalities (unless exempted) are required to have ethics ordinances including lobbying provisions that are "substantially similar" to state provisions. COMAR regulations provide guidance in the form of 2 model ethics ordinances: Model A and Model B

In practice, County and Municipal ethics laws often fail to cover what would be considered lobbying activity to an ordinary person or under state rules. Because of the weak guidance in COMAR, the definition of lobbying and who must register varies greatly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Some local governments follow the strong definition in the Model A ordinance while others have adopted the weaker definition in the Model B ordinance.

HB59 addresses this problem by strengthening the guidance in COMAR. It ensures that the definition of lobbying will more closely adhere to what is currently in the Model A ordinance.

I crafted an amendment after consulting with the ethics commission and DLS. As amended, the bill is clearer yet gives the commission and local governments more flexibility. It restores the "substantially similar" standard and provides more specificity about which state provisions should be included in a local ordinance.

I ask for your favorable report.

## House Bill 59 - Ethics - Local Government - Registration of Lobbyists Additional information

### A. Maryland Counties

County	2010 Pop	Ordinance
Montgomery	971,777	Legislative = A Executive = B
Prince George's	863,420	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Baltimore County	805,029	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Baltimore City	620,961	Legislative = A Executive = B
Anne Arundel	537,656	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Howard County	287,085	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Harford County	244,826	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Frederick County	240,336	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Carroll County	167,134	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Charles County	146,551	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Washington County	147,430	<a href="#">Model B</a>
St. Mary's County	105,151	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Cecil County	101,108	Model B
Wicomico County	98,733	Model B
Calvert County	88,737	Model A
Worcester County	51,454	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Queen Anne's	47,798	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Talbot County	37,782	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Dorchester County	32,618	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Allegheny County	75,087	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Caroline County	33,066	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Kent County	20,197	<a href="#">Model B</a>

Model A = strong, Model B = weak

## House Bill 59 - Ethics - Local Government - Registration of Lobbyists Additional information

### B. Prince George's Municipalities

Municipality	Pop	Ordinance	Exemption	FY oper	Lobbying registrations
Bowie	54,727	Model A	None		2 lobbyists currently registered. In past 5 years, 8 unique lobbyists registered
College Park	30,413	Model B	None		none in last 5 years
Laurel	25,115	Model A	None		only 1 registered lobbyist (pair of developers)
Greenbelt	23,068	Model A	None		none
Hyattsville	17,557	Model B	None		none in last 5 years
New Carrollton	12,135	Model A	None		none in last 5 years
Bladensburg	9,148	Model B	None		
Mount Rainier	8,080	Model A	Lobbying		none currently
Riverdale Park	6,956	Model B	None		
Cheverly	6,173	Model B	None		
Seat Pleasant	4,542	Model B	None		

### C. Montgomery Municipalities

Municipality	Pop	Ordinance	Exemption	Lobbying registrations
Gaithersburg	59,933	Model B	None	none in last 5 years
Rockville	61,209	Model B	None	none
Takoma Park	16,715	Model B	None	none in last 5 years
Poolesville	4,883	Model B	None	
Kensington	2,213	Model A	Full	none in last 5 years

**House Bill 59 - Ethics - Local Government - Registration of Lobbyists  
Additional information**

**D. Other Large Municipalities**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>2020 Pop</b>	<b>Ordinance</b>	<b>Exemption</b>	<b>Lobbying registrations</b>
Frederick	78,171	Model B	none	Awaiting response
Hagerstown	43,527	Model B	none	Awaiting response
Annapolis	40,812	Model B	none	none
Salisbury	33,050	Model B	none	none
Cumberland	19,076	Model B	none	none
Westminster	20,126	Model B	none	Awaiting response
Easton	17,101	Model B	none	none
Aberdeen	16,254	Model B	none	none
Cambridge	13,096	Model B	none	Awaiting response
Bel Air	10,661	Model B	none	none
Mount Airy	9,654	Model B	none	none
Frostburg	7,027	Model B	none	none
La Plata	10,159	Model B	none	none
Ocean City	6,844	Model B	none	none



HB0059/263027/1

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

17 JAN 22  
19:37:15

BY: Delegate Carr

(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 59

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike beginning with “be” in line 5 down through “similar” in line 6 and substitute “require a certain entity to register with a certain agency and be a regulated lobbyist”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 10, strike “(I)”; in line 13, strike “§ 5-702(A)(1) AND (2)” and substitute “§ 5-702”; and strike in their entirety lines 17 through 21, inclusive.

On page 3, in line 1, after “(1)” insert “(I)”; in the same line, strike the brackets; and in line 2, after “title;” insert “AND”

**(II) SHALL REQUIRE AN ENTITY THAT ENGAGES IN LOBBYING ACTIVITIES COMPARABLE TO THOSE IDENTIFIED IN § 5-702 OF THIS TITLE TO REGISTER WITH THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE LOBBYING PROVISIONS AND BE A REGULATED LOBBYIST UNDER THE LOBBYING PROVISIONS;**