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**House Bill 230 – Maryland Public Ethics Law - Training and Financial Disclosure
Requirements - Revisions**

Testimony Before the Environment and Transportation Committee

The State Ethics Commission provides this testimony in support of House Bill 230. This proposed departmental legislation removes the two-hour mandatory minimum time requirement for ethics training and allows for online or live training for officials, employees, and lobbyists conducted by the State Ethics Commission staff. The State Ethics Commission is responsible for providing ethics training to State elected officials who are subject to the jurisdiction of the State Ethics Commission, State employees who are required to file an annual financial disclosure statement, some additional designated public officials and registered lobbyists. The proposed legislation allows for greater flexibility in both format and duration while preserving the content requirements for all ethics training. Ethics training for State officials and employees will still include conflict of interest, financial disclosure, relevant administrative information and general information about the State Ethics Commission and its programs. Mandatory lobbying training will still include lobbying registration, reporting and conduct provisions, as well as relevant administrative information and general information about the State Ethics Commission and its programs. The online training modules developed by the State Ethics Commission allow for greater efficiency in delivering broad content.

The proposed legislation also clarifies that all sources of compensated employment must be disclosed on required financial disclosure statements. The current statutory language of “salaried employment” tends to limit disclosure of potential conflicts. This proposed revision reflects changes in current forms of outside employment held by State employees and officials and promotes transparency. Finally, this legislation corrects a statutory reference in the gift provision.

The State Ethics Commission thanks the Committee for its consideration of this departmental legislation and seeks a favorable report.