



COMMISSION MEMBERS:

CRAIG D. ROSWELL, *Chair*
KAREN D. MORGAN
MARIELA OLIVARES
JAMES N. ROBESY, JR.
GENEAU M. THAMES

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**45 CALVERT STREET, 3rd FLOOR
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
410-260-7770 / 1-877-669-6085**

JENNIFER K. ALLGAIR
Executive Director
WILLIAM J. COLQUHOUN
General Counsel
KATHERINE P. THOMPSON
Staff Counsel
ANA L. HENRY
Assistant General Counsel
PANSY S. WATSON
Assistant Counsel

February 13, 2026

House Bill 136 – Maryland Public Ethics Law - Officials of the Legislative Branch - Gifts of Food and Beverages

Testimony Before the Government, Labor and Elections Committee

The State Ethics Commission provides this informational written testimony to explain the impact of this proposed legislation on the agency. This proposed legislation will have both a fiscal and operational impact on the State Ethics Commission. The anticipated fiscal impact would be approximately \$50,000 for necessary programming changes to two separate systems – the electronic lobbying reporting system and electronic lobbyist training system. This work is completed by two separate outside vendors. Any programming changes to the training courses may also require separate integration work with the existing electronic lobbying reporting system. Changes to written policies, lobbying forms and instructions, memos, informational materials and website information to reflect the changes to the lobbying provisions in the proposed legislation would also be necessary. Changes to the Commission’s existing local government lobbying regulations to include the changes from the proposed legislation in its regulations and Model Laws would also be necessary. County governments and Baltimore City government, as well as some municipalities, may consider revising local lobbying provisions to include the proposed changes, but it will not be mandatory under Subtitle 8 of the Maryland Public Ethics Law.