

# ENROLLED

## COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

2024 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 23

### Legislative Bill 2024- 11

Introduced: October 15, 2024

Introduced by: The Council President at the request of the County Executive.

AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 37 OF THE WICOMICO COUNTY CODE, TITLED "ETHICS LAW" ARTICLE I TITLED "IN GENERAL," SECTION 37-2, TITLED "DEFINITIONS," ARTICLE II TITLED "ETHICS COMMISSION," SECTION 37-5, TITLED "ETHICS COMMISSION," ARTICLE III TITLE "PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND INTERESTS," SECTION 37-7, TITLED "PARTICIPATION PROHIBITIONS," SECTION 37-11, TITLED "USE OF PRESTIGE OF OFFICE," SECTION 37-12, TITLED "SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS," SECTION 37-13, TITLED "DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION," ARTICLE IV TITLED "ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CANDIDATES TO BE ELECTED OFFICIALS DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS," SECTION 37-17, TITLED "CANDIDATES TO BE ELECTED OFFICIALS," SECTION 37-18, TITLED "PUBLIC RECORD," SECTION 37-20, TITLED "CONTENTS OF STATEMENT," SECTION 37-21, TITLED "INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUAL," ARTICLE V TITLED "EMPLOYEES AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS," SECTION 37-23, TITLED "APPLICABILITY," ARTICLE VII TITLED "EXEMPTIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT," SECTION 37-28, TITLED "ENFORCEMENT" TO INCLUDE CHANGES THAT COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CURRENT CODE OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

WHEREAS, during the 2021 Maryland General Assembly session HB 363 and HB 1058 were enacted to mandate some changes to county and municipal ethics laws and county boards of education ethics regulations and policies; and

WHEREAS, the State Ethics Commission revised its local government regulations in COMAR 19A.04 in January 2022 to reflect the changes in the Public Ethics Law and to incorporate changes made by HB 363 and HB 1058; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the State Ethics Commission's review authority pursuant to Subtitle 8 of the Maryland Public Ethics Law and consisted of a comparison of the proposed revisions to the review criteria of COMAR 19A.04, on September 12, 2024, the State Ethics Commission approved the proposed changes to Chapter 37 of the Wicomico County Code; and

WHEREAS, the Wicomico County Ethics Commission, has reviewed the request and recommends the incorporation of certain changes into Chapter 37 of the Wicomico County Code.

Section I. BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION, that Chapter 37 of the Wicomico County Code, Titled "Ethics Law" Article I Titled "In General," Section 37-2, Titled "Definitions," Article II Titled "Ethics Commission," Section 37-5, Titled "Ethics Commission," Article III Titled "Prohibited Conduct And Interests," Section 37-7, Titled "Participation Prohibitions," Section 37-11, Titled "Use of Prestige of Office," Section 37-12, Titled "Solicitation and Acceptance of Gifts," Section 37-13, Titled "Disclosure of Confidential Information," Article IV Titled "Elected Officials and Candidates to be Elected Officials Disclosure Statements," Section 37-17, Titled "Candidates to be Elected Officials," Section 37-18, Titled "Public Record," Section 37-20, Titled "Contents Of Statement," Section 37-21, Titled "Interests of Individual," Article V Titled "Employees and Appointed Officials Disclosure Statements," Section 37-23, Titled "Applicability," Article VII Titled "Exemptions, Modifications And Enforcement," Section 37-28, Titled "Enforcement" are hereby amended, to read as follows:

## Chapter 37

### Ethics Law

#### Article I

#### In General

##### § 37-2. Definitions.

In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated:

*(Note: Added definitions are to be inserted in alphabetical order with the terms already defined)*

##### DESIGNATED SECOND HOME

A. IF AN INDIVIDUAL OWNS ONE SECOND HOME, THE INDIVIDUAL'S SECOND HOME; OR

B. IF AN INDIVIDUAL OWNS MORE THAN ONE SECOND HOME, ANY ONE SECOND HOME THE INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIES TO THE COMMISSION AS THE INDIVIDUAL'S DESIGNATED SECOND HOME.

##### HOME ADDRESS

THE ADDRESS OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S PRINCIPAL HOME; AND DESIGNATED SECOND HOME, IF ANY.

##### Interest

A. A legal or equitable economic interest, whether or not subject to an encumbrance or a condition, which is owned or held by a person subject to this chapter in any way, in whole or in part, jointly or severally, directly or indirectly.

B. For purposes of Article IV of this chapter, "interest" includes any interest held at any time during the reporting period.

C. "Interest" does not include:

(1) An interest held in the capacity of a personal agent, custodian, fiduciary, or personal representative, trustee, unless the holder has an equitable interest in the subject matter;

(2) An interest in a time or demand deposit in a financial institution;

(3) An interest in an insurance policy, endowment policy or annuity contract under which an insurer promises to pay a fixed amount of money either in a lump sum or periodically for life or a specified period;

(4) A common trust fund or a trust which forms part of a pension or profit sharing plan which has more than 25 participants and which has been determined by the Internal Revenue Service to be a qualified trust under the Internal Revenue Code; or

(5) A college savings plan under the Internal Revenue Code.

(6) A MUTUAL FUND OR EXCHANGE-TRADED FUND THAT IS PUBLICLY TRADED ON A NATIONAL SCALE UNLESS THE MUTUAL FUND OR EXCHANGE-TRADED FUND IS COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF HOLDINGS OF STOCKS AND INTERESTS IN A SPECIFIC SECTOR OR AREA THAT IS REGULATED BY THE INDIVIDUAL'S GOVERNMENT UNIT.

#### PRINCIPAL HOME

THE SOLE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY THAT AN INDIVIDUAL OCCUPIES AS THE INDIVIDUAL'S PRIMARY RESIDENCE, WHETHER OWNED OR RENTED BY THE INDIVIDUAL.

#### QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY

AN ENTITY THAT IS CREATED BY STATE STATUTE, THAT PERFORMS A PUBLIC FUNCTION, AND THAT IS SUPPORTED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE STATE, BUT IS MANAGED PRIVATELY.

#### SECOND HOME

A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY THAT AN INDIVIDUAL OCCUPIES FOR SOME PORTION OF THE FILING YEAR; AND IS NOT A RENTAL PROPERTY OR A TIME SHARE.

\*\*\*

## Article II

### Ethics Commission

\*\*\*

#### § 37-5. Ethics Commission.

D. The Commission shall certify to the State Ethics Commission on or before October 1 of each year that the County is in compliance with the requirements of the State Government Article, Title 15 5, Subtitle 8. Annotated Code of Maryland, for elected local officials.

E. The Commission shall determine if changes to this chapter are required to be in compliance with the requirements of the State Government Article, Title 15 5, Subtitle 8, Annotated Code of Maryland, and shall forward any recommended changes and amendments to the County Executive and County Council for consideration.

\*\*\*

## Article III

### Prohibited Conduct and Interests

\*\*\*

#### § 37-7. Participation prohibitions.

D. A former regulated lobbyist who is or becomes subject to this chapter as an employee or official, other than an elected official or an appointed official, may not participate in a case, contract, or other specific matter as an employee or official, other than an elected official or appointed official, for one calendar year after the termination of the registration of the former regulated lobbyist if the former regulated lobbyist previously assisted or represented another party for compensation in the matter.

#### E. EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCIAL INTEREST RESTRICTIONS.

(1) EXCEPT AS PERMITTED BY REGULATION OF THE COMMISSION WHEN THE INTEREST IS DISCLOSED OR WHEN THE EMPLOYMENT DOES NOT CREATE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST OR APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT, A PUBLIC OFFICIAL MAY NOT:

(a). BE EMPLOYED BY OR HAVE A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN ANY ENTITY:

[1] SUBJECT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE OR THE COUNTY AGENCY, BOARD, OR COMMISSION WITH WHICH THE OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE IS AFFILIATED; OR

[2] THAT IS NEGOTIATING OR HAS ENTERED A CONTRACT WITH THE AGENCY, BOARD, OR COMMISSION WITH WHICH THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL IS AFFILIATED; OR

(b). HOLD ANY OTHER EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP THAT WOULD IMPAIR THE IMPARTIALITY OR INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGMENT OF THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL.

(2) THE PROHIBITIONS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY TO:

(a). A PUBLIC OFFICIAL WHO IS APPOINTED TO A REGULATORY OR LICENSING AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT THAT PERSONS SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE AUTHORITY BE REPRESENTED IN APPOINTMENTS TO THE AUTHORITY;

(b) SUBJECT TO OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW, A MEMBER OF A BOARD OR COMMISSION IN REGARD TO A FINANCIAL INTEREST OR EMPLOYMENT HELD AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT, PROVIDED THE FINANCIAL INTEREST OR EMPLOYMENT IS PUBLICLY DISCLOSED TO THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY AND THE COMMISSION;

(c) A PUBLIC OFFICIAL WHOSE DUTIES ARE MINISTERIAL, IF THE PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT OR FINANCIAL INTEREST DOES NOT CREATE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST OR THE APPEARANCE OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST, AS PERMITTED AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION; OR

(d) EMPLOYMENT OR FINANCIAL INTERESTS ALLOWED BY REGULATION OF THE COMMISSION IF THE EMPLOYMENT DOES NOT CREATE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST OR THE APPEARANCE OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST OR THE FINANCIAL INTEREST IS DISCLOSED.

F. POST-EMPLOYMENT LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.

(1) A FORMER PUBLIC OFFICIAL MAY NOT ASSIST OR REPRESENT ANY PARTY FOR COMPENSATION IN A CASE, CONTRACT, OR OTHER SPECIFIC MATTER INVOLVING WICOMICO COUNTY IF THAT MATTER IS ONE IN WHICH THE FORMER PUBLIC OFFICIAL SIGNIFICANTLY PARTICIPATED.

(2) A FORMER ELECTED OFFICIAL MAY NOT ASSIST OR REPRESENT ANOTHER PARTY FOR COMPENSATION IN A MATTER THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR ONE CALENDAR YEAR AFTER THE ELECTED OFFICIAL LEAVES OFFICE.

G. CONTINGENT COMPENSATION. EXCEPT IN A JUDICIAL OR QUASI-JUDICIAL PROCEEDING, A PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE MAY NOT ASSIST OR REPRESENT A PARTY FOR CONTINGENT COMPENSATION IN ANY MATTER BEFORE OR INVOLVING THE COUNTY.

§ 37-11. Use of prestige of office.

A. A public official may not intentionally use the prestige of his or her office or public position for the private gain of the public official or another, OR TO INFLUENCE THE AWARD OF A STATE, COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CONTRACT TO A SPECIFIC PERSON.

B. The performance of usual and customary constituent services does not constitute the use of the prestige of office for a public official's private gain or that of another if no additional compensation is received for performing the constituent services.

C. A PUBLIC OFFICIAL MAY NOT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INITIATE A SOLICITATION FOR A PERSON TO RETAIN THE COMPENSATED SERVICES OF A PARTICULAR REGULATED LOBBYIST OR LOBBYING FIRM.

D. A PUBLIC OFFICIAL MAY NOT USE PUBLIC RESOURCES OR THE TITLE OF THE OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE TO SOLICIT A CONTRIBUTION AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN THE ELECTION LAW ARTICLE.

E. AN ELECTED OFFICIAL MAY NOT USE PUBLIC RESOURCES TO SOLICIT A CONTRIBUTION AS THAT TERM IS DEFINED IN THE ELECTIONS ARTICLE, ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

§ 37-12. Solicitation and acceptance of gifts.

B. A public official shall not knowingly accept a gift, directly or indirectly, from a person that the public official knows or has the reason to know:

- (1) Is doing business with or seeking to do business with the County office, agency, board or commission with which the public official is affiliated;
- (2) Has an interest that may be substantially and materially affected, in a manner distinguishable from the public generally, by the performance or nonperformance of the public official's duties;
- (3) Is engaged in an activity regulated or controlled by the public official's governmental unit; or
- (4) Is a lobbyist with respect to matters within the jurisdiction of the public official;
- (5) IS AN ASSOCIATION, OR ANY ENTITY ACTING ON BEHALF OF AN ASSOCIATION THAT IS ENGAGED ONLY IN REPRESENTING COUNTIES OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

§ 37-13. Disclosure of confidential information.

C. OTHER THAN IN THE DISCHARGE OF OFFICIAL DUTIES, A PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR FORMER PUBLIC OFFICIAL MAY NOT DISCLOSE OR USE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, THAT THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL ACQUIRED BY REASON OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S PUBLIC POSITION OR FORMER PUBLIC POSITION AND THAT IS NOT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, FOR THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR THAT OF ANOTHER PERSON.

D. A PUBLIC OFFICIAL MAY NOT RETALIATE AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL FOR REPORTING OR PARTICIPATING IN AN INVESTIGATION OF A POTENTIAL VIOLATION OF THE LOCAL ETHICS LAW OR ORDINANCE.

\*\*\*

#### Article IV

##### Elected Officials and Candidates To Be Elected Officials Disclosure Statements

\*\*\*

§ 37-17. Candidates to be elected officials.

~~D. If a candidate fails to file a statement required by this article after written notice is provided by the Commission or Board of Election Supervisors at least 20 days before the last day for the withdrawal of candidacy, the candidate is deemed to have withdrawn the candidacy.~~ IF A STATEMENT REQUIRED BY A CANDIDATE IS OVERDUE AND NOT FILED WITHIN 8 DAYS AFTER WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE FAILURE TO FILE IS PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY OR BOARD OF ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR, THE CANDIDATE IS DEEMED TO HAVE WITHDRAWN THE CANDIDACY.

§ 37-18. Public record.

F. THE COMMISSION OR OFFICE DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION RELATED TO CONSIDERATION RECEIVED FROM:

(1) THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM

(2) A GOVERNMENT ENTITY OF THE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE; OR

(3) A QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OF THE STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE.

§ 37-20. Contents of statement.

D. Gifts.



(1) A statement filed under this section shall include a schedule of each gift in excess of \$20 in value or a series of gifts totaling \$100 or more received during the reporting period from or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any one person who does business with or is regulated by the County OR FROM AN ASSOCIATION, OR ANY ENTITY ACTING ON BEHALF OF AN ASSOCIATION THAT IS ENGAGED ONLY IN REPRESENTING COUNTIES OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

(2) For each gift reported, the schedule shall include:

- (a) A description of the nature and value of the gift; and
- (b) The identity of the person from whom, or on behalf of whom, directly or indirectly, the gift was received.

#### H. Sources of earned income.

(1) A statement filed under this section shall include a schedule of the name and address of each place of employment and of each business entity of which the individual or a member of the individual's immediate family was a sole or partial owner and from which the individual or member of the individual's immediate family received earned income, at any time during the reporting period.

(2) A minor child's employment or business ownership need not be disclosed if the agency that employs the individual does not regulate, exercise authority over, or contract with the place of employment or business entity of the minor child.

(3) For a statement filed on or after January 1, 2019, if the individual's spouse is a lobbyist regulated by the County, the individual shall disclose the entity that has engaged the spouse for lobbying purposes.

(4) RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.

(a) AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL DISCLOSE THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED IN GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE § 5-607 (J)(1), ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, FOR ANY FINANCIAL OR CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH:

[1] THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEDICAL SYSTEM;

[2] A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OF THE STATE OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE; OR

[3] A QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OF THE STATE OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE.

(b) FOR EACH FINANCIAL OR CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP REPORTED, THE STATEMENT SHALL INCLUDE:

[1] A DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP;

[2] THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE RELATIONSHIP; AND  
THE CONSIDERATION.

I. A STATEMENT FILED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY ALSO INCLUDE A SCHEDULE OF ADDITIONAL INTERESTS OR INFORMATION THAT THE INDIVIDUAL MAKING THE STATEMENT WISHES TO DISCLOSE.

J. AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE THE NAME OF A BUSINESS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL DISCLOSE ANY OTHER NAMES THAT THE BUSINESS IS TRADING AS OR DOING BUSINESS AS.

§ 37-21. Interests of individual.

For the purposes of § 37-20A, B, and C of this chapter, the following interests are considered to be the interests of the individual making the statement:

A. An interest held by a member of the individual's immediate family, if the interest was, at anytime during the reporting period, directly or indirectly controlled by the individual.

~~B. An interest held by a business entity in which the individual held an interest of 30% or greater at any time during the reporting period.~~

B. AN INTEREST HELD, AT ANY TIME DURING THE APPLICABLE PERIOD, BY:

(1) A BUSINESS ENTITY IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL HELD A (10) % OR GREATER INTEREST;

(2) A BUSINESS ENTITY DESCRIBED IN SECTION (A) OF THIS SUBSECTION IN WHICH THE BUSINESS ENTITY HELD A 25% OR GREATER INTEREST;

(3) A BUSINESS ENTITY DESCRIBED IN SECTION (A) OF THIS SUBSECTION IN WHICH THE BUSINESS ENTITY HELD A 50% OR GREATER INTEREST; AND

(4) A BUSINESS ENTITY IN WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, THROUGH AN INTEREST IN ONE OR A COMBINATION OF OTHER BUSINESS ENTITIES, HOLDS A 10% OR GREATER INTEREST.

\*\*\*

## Article V

### Employees and Appointed Officials Disclosure Statements

\*\*\*

#### § 37-23. Applicability.

J. All County employees who are classified on the Wicomico County Pay Plan at Grade 17 M32 or above and, who are not covered by the State Ethics Statute.

K. All county employees below Grade 17 M32 who received a gift from any person doing business with or regulated by the County.

L. Members of the following boards and commissions:

- (1) Animal Appeal Board.
- (2) Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board.
- (3) Agricultural Reconciliation Committee.
- (4) Airport Commission.
- (5) Board of Appeals.
- (6) Board of Electrical Examiners.
- (7) Ethics Commission.
- (8) Historic District Commission.

- (9) Board of License Commissioners (Liquor Board).
- (10) Local Management Board.
- (11) Personnel Board.
- (12) Planning and Zoning Commission.
- (13) Recreation and Parks Commission.
- (14) Retirement Investment Trustees.
- (15) Tourism Board.
- (16) Youth and Civic Center Commission.
- (17) POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD, ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGING COMMITTEE, OR TRIAL BOARD.

\*\*\*

## Article VII

### Exemptions, Modifications and Enforcement

\*\*\*

#### § 37-28. Enforcement.

E. A PERSON WHO IS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER SHALL OBTAIN AND PRESERVE ALL ACCOUNTS, BILLS, RECEIPTS, BOOKS, PAPERS, AND DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE AND SUBSTANTIATE A REPORT, STATEMENT, OR RECORD REQUIRED UNDER THIS CHAPTER FOR THREE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF FILING THE REPORT, STATEMENT, OR RECORD.

F. THESE PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION UPON REQUEST BY THE COMMISSION OR THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY AFTER REASONABLE NOTICE.

E G. Violation of Article VI of this chapter shall be a misdemeanor subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment of up to one year.

¶ H. A finding of a violation of this chapter by the Commission is public information.

SECTION II: BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION THAT this bill shall be known as Legislative Bill No. 2024-11 and shall take effect sixty (60) days after its enactment, unless a proper Petition for Referendum thereof shall be filed prior to said date; in which event, the Bill shall not take effect until the expiration of thirty (30) days following the approval of this Bill by a majority of the qualified voters of the County voting in any such referendum.

Certified correct as passed and adopted by the County Council of Wicomico County, Maryland this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024.

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

  
By: John Cannon, President

  
By: Laura Hurley, Secretary

I HEREBY CERTIFY that copies of the above Bill are available to the public, the press and other news media at the time of its introduction.

  
By: Laura Hurley, Secretary

Explanation:

~~Strike Out~~ indicates matters deleted from existing law.

CAPITALS INDICATE MATTERS ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

~~CAPITAL STRIKE OUT~~ indicates matter stricken from Bill by Amendment.

CAPITAL UNDERLINING indicates Amendments to Bill

COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF  
WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

2024 Legislative Session

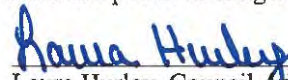
Legislative Day No. 23

**LEGISLATIVE BILL NO. 2024-11**

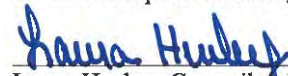
**INTRODUCED BY:** The Council President at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 37 OF THE WICOMICO COUNTY CODE, TITLED "ETHICS LAW" ARTICLE I TITLED "IN GENERAL," SECTION 37-2, TITLED "DEFINITIONS," ARTICLE II TITLED "ETHICS COMMISSION," SECTION 37-5, TITLED "ETHICS COMMISSION," ARTICLE III TITLED "PROHIBITED CONDUCT AND INTERESTS," SECTION 37-7, TITLED "PARTICIPATION PROHIBITIONS," SECTION 37-11, TITLED "USE OF PRESTIGE OF OFFICE," SECTION 37-12, TITLED "SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS," SECTION 37-13, TITLED "DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION," ARTICLE IV TITLED "ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CANDIDATES TO BE ELECTED OFFICIALS DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS," SECTION 37-17, TITLED "CANDIDATES TO BE ELECTED OFFICIALS," SECTION 37-18, TITLED "PUBLIC RECORD," SECTION 37-20, TITLED "CONTENTS OF STATEMENT," SECTION 37-21, TITLED "INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUAL," ARTICLE V TITLED "EMPLOYEES AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS," SECTION 37-23, TITLED "APPLICABILITY," ARTICLE VII TITLED "EXEMPTIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT," SECTION 37-28, TITLED "ENFORCEMENT" TO INCLUDE CHANGES THAT COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CURRENT CODE OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

Introduced and read first time on October 15, 2024. Ordered posted and public hearing scheduled for November 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

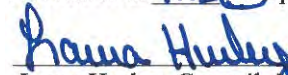
**PUBLIC HEARING:** Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing held on November 5, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

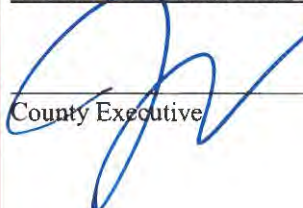
**CERTIFICATION:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this Bill was Approved and Adopted by the County Council of Wicomico County, Maryland, on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

Presented to the County Executive for approval this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November at 9:15 a.m./p.m. (5 days §411)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Hurley, Council Administrator

**BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive

APPROVED

Date: 11/6/24  
(21 days §411)

VETOED

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BY THE COUNCIL:**

Option One: This Bill, having been approved by the County Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on November 6, 2024 and effective on: January 6, 2025.  
(60 days §311)

Option Two: This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the County Executive with 21 days of its presentation, stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_ and becomes effective on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(60 days §311)

Option Three: This Bill, being exempt from the Executive Veto stands enacted on \_\_\_\_\_ and becomes effective on \_\_\_\_\_. (Charter Section 305)

**ENROLLMENT:** Legislative Bill No. 2024-11 is herewith submitted to the County Council of Wicomico County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

Laura Hurley  
Laura Hurley, Council Administrator