

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF MARYLAND



WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

CRAIG D. ROSWELL, *Chair*
BONNIE A. KIRKLAND
MARIELA OLIVARES
JAMES N. ROBEY, JR.
GENEAU M. THAMES

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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ANA L. HENRY
Assistant General Counsel
PANSY S. WATSON
Assistant Counsel

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2023 – DECEMBER 31, 2023

APRIL 4, 2024

GENERAL STATUTORY IMPLEMENTATION

OVERVIEW

The State Ethics Commission, as directed in General Provisions Article § 5-205, administers the provisions of the Public Ethics Law; creates and provides forms for each document required by the Public Ethics Law; retains as a public record each document filed with the Commission for at least four years after receipt; periodically reviews the adequacy of public ethics laws; reviews financial disclosure statements and lobbyist activity reports filed in accordance with the Public Ethics Law and notifies the filers of any identified omissions or deficiencies; and publishes information that explains the provisions of the Law.

The Commission held seven meetings in 2023. During its meetings the Commission considered issues related to all areas of its statutory mandate: financial disclosure, conflict of interest, lobbyist disclosure and conduct restrictions, local government ethics laws, school board ethics regulations, advisory opinions, enforcement matters, employee training, lobbyist training and public information activities. In 2023, the State Ethics Commission made changes to its training programs and meeting structure to comply with new legislative requirements. The Commission staff provided ethics training for elected State officials subject to the jurisdiction of the State Ethics Commission, which was a new requirement for elected officials serving in office after January 19, 2023. Beginning in July 2023, the State Ethics Commission was required to video stream the open portion of its meetings, place meetings video recordings on its website, and make certain meeting materials available to the public ahead of scheduled Commission meetings. The live video stream, recorded meeting videos and public meeting documents are available on the Commission's website, ethics.maryland.gov.

The State Ethics Commission also acknowledges the service of Commissioner Janet E. McHugh, whose appointment term ended in June 2023. Ms. McHugh served as a member of the Commission from 2005 to 2011 and again from 2015 to 2023. She also served as the Commission Chair for several years and brought great experience, compassion, and leadership to the Commission. During her many years on the Commission, Janet McHugh was a mentor to both the staff and Commissioners. We thank her for her extensive years of service to the Commission and the State.

ADVICE ACTIVITIES

The State Ethics Commission is responsible for interpreting the Public Ethics Law. Sections 5-301 through 5-303 of the Public Ethics Law authorize the State Ethics Commission to issue formal advisory opinions in response to requests from officials, employees, lobbyists, and others who are subject to the Public Ethics Law. Formal opinions generally follow an appearance before the Commission by the requestor, are published in the Maryland Register, and are accessible electronically through the Division of State Documents in COMAR Title 19A. Section 5-301 of the Public Ethics Law and the Commission's regulations in COMAR 19A.01.02.05 also authorize the staff and the Commission to provide informal advice. The Commission and its staff provide informal advice in many forms, including letters, emails, and phone calls.

During its forty plus years of existence, the Commission has issued 500 formal opinions. These opinions not only advise the public of the Commission’s interpretation of the Public Ethics Law, but also guide the Commission and its staff in providing informal advice. In light of this large body of interpretive decisions, in recent years the Commission and its staff have primarily provided advice informally. This process allows the Commission and its staff to deliver more timely advice, which has been important considering the steady increase in advice requests. The Commission issued no formal opinions in 2023.

The Commission has also published numerous informational memoranda and other written guidance on the various topics addressed in the Law. The memoranda are available on the Commission’s website. **For officials and employees:** Agency Fundraising; Board and Commission Ethics Law Requirements; Contractual Employees; General Information for Board and Commission Members; General Information on the Public Ethics Law (an overview); Gifts; Leaving State Employment; Political Activity; Post-Employment; Secondary Employment; Participation. **For Lobbyists:** Campaign Finance Activity; Contingent Fee Restrictions; General Information for Lobbyists; Gift Reporting for Lobbyists; Lobbying Law – Frequently Asked Questions; Lobbyist Regulation and Reporting Issues; Lobbyists Serving on Boards; Procurement Lobbying. **For financial disclosure filers and agency personnel managing the agency’s program:** Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Financial Disclosure; Financial Disclosure Filer Identification Manual. **For local governments:** Prince George’s County Zoning. These memoranda and other guidance are edited as necessary to accurately reflect the current State of the Law and the Commission’s interpretation of the Law.

The Commission’s informal docket logs requests for informal advice submitted to the staff or Commission. The docket captures more complex matters (requiring research, consultation with other staff members, etc.) which come to the staff’s attention by way of letters, telephone calls, email or “walk in” requests for advice. The Commission and its staff provided informal advice in the following subject areas during calendar years 2021 through 2023:

SUBJECT MATTER OF THE ADVICE	2023	2022	2021
Lobbying Registration, Reporting and Conduct	8	16	34
Secondary Employment Advice	556	489	456
Participation Advice	69	51	56
Post-Employment Advice	66	65	45
Gift Questions	134	64	51
Other (Financial Interest, Prestige, and Freedom of Information)	73	134	76
Total	906	819	718

The number of informal matters addressed in 2023 reached an unprecedented level. The Commission staff has worked hard to encourage employees and officials to take a proactive approach to dealing with ethics matters, preferring to address issues before they become enforcement matters. As the above table indicates, the largest number of matters addressed dealt with State employees seeking outside or secondary employment, as is consistently the case.

The informal docket does not include routine advice on matters that the Commission’s Executive Director, General Counsel, Assistant General Counsel, Assistant Counsel, and Staff Counsel are able to immediately resolve through telephone calls, emails, and in-person discussions on a daily basis. It also does not include the Commission staff assisting individuals with electronic financial disclosure filing or training or other general inquiries concerning the Public Ethics Law and access to public information.

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
EXEMPTIONS**

The Public-Private Partnership Act, which is codified in § 5-525 of the Public Ethics Law, allows Maryland Educational Institutions (including University System of Maryland (USM) institutions and Morgan State University), present and former university officials or employees, and under certain circumstances specific officials (designated as a chancellor, vice chancellor, president or vice president of an educational institution) exemptions from certain conflict of interest provisions of the Public Ethics Law when engaged in research or development activities. Research or development is defined to include “the development or marketing of university-owned technology, the acquisition of services of an official or employee by an entity for research and development purposes, or participation in State economic development programs.” The exemption does not extend to the Ethics Law’s gift and prestige of office restrictions. The institution granting the exemption is required to have adopted procedures conforming to the requirements of the Ethics Law, to maintain the exemption as a public record, and to file a copy with the State Ethics Commission.

The Law requires each governing board to report quarterly to the Governor, the Legislative Policy Committee of the General Assembly, and the State Ethics Commission, the number of exemptions approved. Records filed by the institutions with the Commission reflect a total of 920 faculty exemptions granted by the university presidents between 1996 and 2021. During calendar year 2023, USM institutions and Morgan State University reported an additional 138 faculty member exemptions to the Commission. The 2023 exemptions were from the following institutions:

INSTITUTION	Number of Exemptions
Morgan State University	0
Towson University	1
University of Maryland Baltimore	42
University of Maryland Baltimore County	3
University of Maryland College Park	92
University of Maryland Global Campus (“UMGC”)	0
TOTAL FACULTY EXEMPTIONS	138

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

The financial disclosure program continued to identify individual employees and officials required to file, provide technical assistance to filers, and monitor compliance with the Law. In accord with Public Ethics Law § 5-103, the Commission reviewed a sizable number of requests by various agencies to add positions to or delete positions from the financial disclosure filing list. The net result was an increase in the number of filers from 18,080 in 2022 to 19,335 in 2023. Pursuant to Public Ethics Law §§ 5-103 and 5-209, the Commission also made decisions regarding whether newly created boards and commissions met the Ethics Law's definition of "executive unit." These determinations are significant because members of executive units are subject to the Public Ethics Law, including both the conflict of interest and financial disclosure filing requirements. The Commission also considered and acted upon requests by several boards and commissions for exemptions from the requirement to file financial disclosure statements. The Commission continues to see a substantial increase in the number of boards, commissions, task forces, and technical advisory groups created by the General Assembly.

The basic financial disclosure statement filed by most individuals who are determined by the Commission to be public officials is referred to as Form #1. Individuals who are public officials only as the result of their participation on boards or commissions are required to file a limited financial disclosure statement (Form #2). Legislators are required to file a more extensive disclosure statement (Form #19). The Public Ethics Law requires financial disclosure statements to be submitted electronically. Filers may also electronically file amendments if required. The electronic system has many advantages, both for the filer because of its user-friendly nature and for the staff. The system permits the staff to quickly review electronically submitted statements, compare them to previously filed electronic statements, notify filers by email of any omissions or questions raised by the statements, and maintain copies of those notifications in the filers' electronic records. The emails become attached to the electronic files, and a record is therefore compiled of statements, inquiries, and responses. Communication with filers, for the most part, is through email, which also saves the Commission substantial supply and postage costs. The Commission's electronic financial disclosure system is maintained and serviced by an outside information technology vendor, with the coordination of the Maryland Department of Information Technology. Changes to financial disclosure filing requirements often require updates to the electronic system at a significant cost to the Commission.

The Commission staff conducts compliance reviews of financial disclosure statements and notifies filers of identifiable errors or omissions, and it pursues enforcement actions against those who fail to file. During 2023, the Commission was able to review 19,401 financial disclosure statements.

LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE AND REGULATION

The lobbying year runs from November 1st to October 31st of the following year. The Public Ethics Law requires a regulated lobbyist to register separately for each entity that engages the regulated lobbyist for lobbying purposes. For the lobbying year that ended October 31, 2023, 4,088 lobbying registrations were filed with the Commission. Those registrations were submitted by 704 lobbyists on behalf of 1,602 employers. This represents an increase of 293 registrations from the 3,795 filed for the period ending October 31, 2022. The Commission launched a new lobbyist registration and reporting system in September of 2019, replacing an outdated system that had been in place since 2005. This new system provides a more accurate way of reporting expenses.

The following table summarizes lobbying expenditures for 2023, 2022 and 2021:

TYPE OF EXPENDITURE	10/31/2023	10/31/2022	10/31/2021
Compensation	\$70,715,566.57	\$65,631,592.32	\$60,480,109.28
Salaries to Staff	\$1,427,128.18	\$934,640.12	\$834,604.86
Office Expenses	\$1,133,386.15	\$882,829.92	\$801,629.18
Research	\$269,381.54	\$652,656.54	\$417,167.01
Publications	\$1,231,652.60	\$1,730,409.40	\$3,716,153.35
Witness Fees	\$9,157.08	\$607.82	\$1,500.00
Other Expenses	\$361,693.38	\$394,703.89	\$390,581.31
SUBTOTAL	\$75,147,965.50	\$70,227,440.01	\$66,641,744.99
Events	\$2,416,848.85	\$965,326.10	\$297,348.77
Tickets	\$6,175.00	\$780.00	\$14.24
Legislative Meetings	\$22,226.39	\$15,020.43	\$112.50
Speaking Engagements	\$1,585.74	\$0.00	\$0.00
Meals and Beverages	\$23,632.48	\$16,272.46	\$688.70
Gifts	\$12,787.47	\$16,397.38	\$22,387.35
TOTAL OF ALL EXPENDITURES	\$77,631,221.43	\$71,241,236.38	\$66,962,296.55

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Enforcement inquiries and reviews are conducted by the Commission’s Staff Counsel, with the assistance of two paralegals and a compliance officer. In 2023, Staff Counsel was assisted by one intern.

The term “preliminary matters” describes those matters that have not yet reached the complaint stage. The Commission’s enforcement procedures divide preliminary matters into two categories. All new matters are docketed as Preliminary Consideration Matters (A matters) and presented to the Commission for review to determine whether the matter merits staff inquiry or follow-up. Cases where the Commission determines that investigation is warranted are designated Preliminary Inquiry Matters (B matters).

There are two types of complaints, as that term is used in the Public Ethics Law and the Commission's regulations. The Public Ethics Law provides that any person may file a complaint with the Commission. Complaints filed with the Commission must be signed under oath and allege a violation of the Public Ethics Law by a person subject to the Law. In addition, following investigation of independently obtained information, the Commission may issue a complaint on its own motion alleging Public Ethics Law violations.

In 2023, the Commission opened 51 A matters (Preliminary Consideration), including 20 conflict of interest matters, 22 lobbyist matters, 5 financial disclosure matters, and 4 training matters. The Commission entered into 18 Late Filing Agreements with lobbyists during 2023, resulting in payments of \$4,400 to the Fair Campaign Finance Fund. The Commission closed 37 A matters in 2023, which includes 5 from 2022 and 2 from 2020. (Note that at this preliminary stage, allegations of ethics violations against multiple parties may be grouped as a single matter, e.g. late filed lobbyist reports, and many A matters transition into B matters or complaints.)

The Commission opened 11 B matters (Preliminary Inquiry Matters) in 2023. All 11 involved conflicts of interest. In 2023, the Commission also closed 13 B matters, which includes 6 matters from 2022. The Commission, through a Pre-Complaint Disposition Agreement with a former employee of the Maryland Department of General Services, where the employee acknowledged their actions violated the prestige of office provisions of § 5-506, was issued a reprimand and assessed a fee in lieu of a fine for \$100. The Commission issued a reprimand and assessed a fee in lieu of a fine of \$4,500, through a Pre-Complaint Disposition Agreement, to an employee of the University of Maryland, College Park for participating in a matter where a qualifying relative and their company had an interest. The employee acknowledged that their actions violated the provisions of §§ 5-501, 5-502, and 5-506. The Commission issued a reprimand and assessed a fee in lieu of a fine of \$250, through a Pre-Complaint Disposition Agreement, to an employee of Maryland Public Television for using State resources to conduct activities related to their privately owned business entity. The employee acknowledged that their actions violated the provision of § 5-506, which prohibits employees from using their State position for their own benefit. The Commission issued a reprimand and assessed a fee in lieu of a fine of \$100, through a Pre-Complaint Disposition Agreement, to a former employee of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services for participating in a matter where a qualifying relative had an interest.

In calendar year 2023, the Commission issued 6 complaints and closed 3 complaints. The Commission issued a reprimand and assessed a fee in lieu of a fine for \$100, through a Stipulation of Settlement Agreement, and rescinded their previous approval of secondary employment to an employee of the Maryland Department of State Police for failing to follow the previous advice given by the Commission in connection with his secondary employment. The Commission assessed a total of \$5,050 in enforcement penalties in 2023. All enforcement payments get deposited into the Fair Campaign Finance Fund and cannot be used by the Commission.

In fiscal year 2021, the Commission began implementing an intermediary step in the process of the issuance of complaints against State employees, public officials, and lobbyists for failing to file their Financial Disclosure Statements or failing to satisfy their mandatory training obligations. In the past, the names of the individuals who were delinquent in their filings or training requirements were presented to the Commission and complaints were authorized and issued to those individuals, during each Commission meeting. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission began authorizing complaints for issuance within 14 days after the Commission meeting if the individuals failed to file or complete their training within the specified time. This authorization period has allowed staff to streamline their work and make additional efforts to contact the delinquent individuals and provide assistance. The authorization of complaints, without immediate issuance, has proven very successful in prompting individuals to file their

statements and fulfill their training obligations as compared to the immediate issuance of complaints. As a direct result, there have been far fewer complaints issued than in previous years.

Following successful audits of Lobbyist Activity Reports in 2016, the Commission approved Staff Counsel's request that the audits continue annually. In 2023, 20 Activity Reports filed by lobbyists for the period of November 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023 were selected for audit. The Public Ethics Law requires that lobbyists report compensation and other expenditures by filing Activity Reports. Gen. Prov. § 5-705. The Commission is required to review each report filed with it as part of its duties under the Public Ethics Law. Gen. Prov. § 5-205(a)(5)(i). Lobbyists must retain each "...account, bill, receipt, book, paper, or other document[s] necessary to substantiate..." their Activity Reports and affiliated reports for 3 years after the reports are filed. Gen. Prov. § 5-409(a-b). Each lobbyist, with reasonable notice from the Commission, shall make those documents available to the Commission for inspection. Gen. Prov. § 5-409(c). This last section provides the Commission with the authority to audit Activity Reports and other associated reports by inspecting supporting documentation. Lobbyists are advised that the audits will be occurring and of the documentation they will be required to provide if they are selected for an audit.

Regardless of lobbying experience levels, many of the submissions in 2023 (14 of the 20 lobbyists selected, or 70%) required amendments. A significant amount of these amendments dealt with small calculation errors for expenses, compensation, or actual costs of events compared to the original estimates. During many of the telephone calls and meetings with lobbyists who needed to amend their forms, nearly every lobbyist had specific and niche questions that needed to be reconciled in their amendments. Each year, due to the errors discovered in the audits, instructions in the lobbyist training are updated to emphasize the issues that arise in this and other audit years. After Activity Reports for the period of November 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024 are filed, the Commission staff will randomly select no less than 20 lobbyists and meet with them to review the documentation that supports their reports. Staff Counsel will then ask the lobbyists to provide any necessary amendments. Lobbyists who fail to respond to the audit will be subject to enforcement action.¹

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICS LAWS

The Public Ethics Law charges the Commission with ensuring that local governments and school boards implement laws/regulations consistent with the requirements imposed on them in the State law. The Commission, however, has no role in administering those laws/regulations once it determines compliance with the State's requirements. That responsibility belongs to the local governments and school boards.

During 2023, the Commission's Executive Director, General Counsel, Assistant Counsel, and Assistant General Counsel participated in numerous phone discussions with county and local ethics officials, as well as their representative associations. The conversations addressed questions relating to conflicts of interest, financial disclosure and lobbying, and the adoption of local laws/regulations to ensure compliance with enhanced requirements imposed on elected local officials and school board members by the General Assembly in legislation enacted in 2017 and 2021. The Commission received fifty new written

¹ The primary purpose of the audits, which are performed on randomly selected lobbyists, is to confirm that the information reported by them is accurate and supported by the records they maintain. The random nature of the process, which is conveyed to all lobbyists in advance, encourages them to ensure accuracy in the information they provide and to maintain the proper documentation to support their reports.

requests for advice from local governments and boards of education, and staff continued its review of the ethics ordinances and policies of local governments and boards of education for compliance with the Public Ethics Law and the Commission's regulations. Local governments must submit an annual certification of compliance to the Commission. In 2023, 57 out of 74 municipalities and 16 out of 24 counties completed their annual certification. The Ethics Law contains no such certification requirement for local boards of education. As a result of the legislation referenced above, local governments and boards of education are required to make changes to their local ordinances and policies to comply with the State Law requirements. In 2023, 10 Boards of Education, 18 municipalities, and 5 counties enacted compliant laws/regulations. The position of Assistant Counsel was created and filled at the end of 2023, in order to have a staff member dedicated to local government matters.

The Public Ethics Law and the Commission's regulations authorize the Commission to exempt a municipality from the requirement to adopt an ethics law, or to modify the provisions applicable to a municipality, if the Commission determines an exemption or modification to be warranted based upon the size of the municipality. Commission regulations (19A.04.03.03) require the Commission to review the status of all municipal exemptions and modifications at the end of each decennial census to determine if those that were previously granted are still appropriate. The review for the 2010 census was undertaken at the end of 2013 and the beginning of 2014. No additional exemptions/modifications were granted in 2023.

The Commission issued no new Public Notices in 2023, but three Public Notices for noncompliance with the requirements of Subtitle 8 of the Public Ethics Law continue from previous years. Public Notices are posted on the Commission's website at <https://ethics.maryland.gov/local-government-public-notice/> and set forth the issues for each jurisdiction related to noncompliance with the State requirements. At the end of 2021, Public Notices existed for the City of Gaithersburg, the Town of Hampstead, and the Town of Mount Airy. These notices continued through 2022. In 2023, the Public Notice for the City of Gaithersburg was amended to include the minutes of the March 2, 2023 meeting that reflect efforts on the part of the City to make the required changes. While the City is not yet in full compliance, it did make 2 amendments that were approved in 2023.

In the 2022 legislative session, HB 1059(CH 284) was passed and enacted. This legislation required the three bicounty commissions, which are the Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission ("WSSC"), the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission ("M-NCPPC") and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission ("WSTC"), to file an annual certification of compliance with the State Ethics Commission beginning in 2023. The annual filing is required to certify that each bicounty commission's respective ethics regulations for their employees and lobbying provisions meet the requirements of Subtitle 8 of the Public Ethics Law. The State Ethics Commission does not have any jurisdiction over the bicounty commissions, as entities, or over their respective employees and lobbying programs. Members of the three bicounty commission boards, however, are subject to the Public Ethics Law and file an annual financial disclosure statement with the State Ethics Commission. The State Ethics Commission does assist the bicounty commissions, if asked, with reviewing their respecting ethics policies and keeps copies of the bicounty commission annual reports provided. In response to this legislative change, the Commission developed a new Bicounty Commission Certification Form, which is available on its website. The certification must be filed annually by April 30th each year. Any annual certification forms filed with the State Ethics Commission will be placed in the bicounty binders in the lobby of the Commission's office. All bicounty commissions filed certification forms with the State Ethics Commission by April 30, 2023.

In addition, the Commission reviewed updates to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (“MNCPPC”) lobbying provisions in 2023 and acknowledged that the provision was similar to the Public Ethics Law.

EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Commission staff has been active in providing formal training to State employees, lobbyists, and local jurisdictions. The training has involved advising and assisting employees, officials, candidates and lobbyists on completion of forms, and providing training related to the conflict of interest provisions of the Public Ethics Law. The Commission staff has assisted local government and school board officials in drafting their ethics laws and regulations and provided technical advice to local government ethics commissions.

The Public Ethics Law requires new financial disclosure filers (i.e. public officials) to receive 2 hours of Ethics Law training (§ 5-205(d)) within 6 months of becoming filers. In 2023, approximately 2,000 filers took this training. Beginning in January 2023, elected State officials who are subject to the jurisdiction of the State Ethics Commission are also required to receive ethics training. The Commission’s staff provided this new ethics training to 100 elected officials through in-person meetings and live, virtual trainings. The Commission plans to develop an online training module for the State officials required to take ethics training in the next two years. Development of the new online training module will require outside information technology services.

In addition to the basic training provided to new financial disclosure filers, the staff regularly responds to requests from various State entities for general ethics training and other, specifically focused training. The staff conducted 21 virtual and 5 in-person general ethics training programs for agencies, boards and commissions, attended by 1,124 State employees and public officials, addressing conflicts of interest and the financial disclosure requirements. The Commission staff also conducted 6 virtual and 8 in-person training sessions addressing conflict of interest issues attended by an additional 222 State employees, public officials, members of the public and special interest groups. The total number of individuals who attended virtual and in-person general ethics and conflict of interest training was 628.

In accordance with § 5-205(e) of the Public Ethics Law, which requires the State Ethics Commission to provide a training course for regulated lobbyists and prospective regulated lobbyists at least twice each year, the Commission staff conducted 2 virtual lobbying training programs attended by 31 regulated lobbyists. In total, 400 regulated lobbyists took the mandated training online or in person during calendar year 2023. The lobbying training focuses on electronic filing, the general lobbying conduct prohibitions in the Law, and reporting requirements.

The State Ethics Commission relies heavily on its website to make information available to officials, employees, lobbyists, and members of the general public. The Commission’s home page allows users to access the Commission’s Annual Reports, special explanatory memoranda, and other information. The Commission’s electronic filing for lobbyists and financial disclosure filers may be accessed from the website, and all Commission forms may be downloaded from the home page.

2023 LEGISLATION REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS

For the 2023 Session of the General Assembly, the State Ethics Commission did not propose any departmental legislation. Legislation passed during the 2023 legislative session did impact the State Ethics Commission. HB 58/SB 35 (CH 149 & 150) amended the Open Meetings Act to require that the State Ethics Commission provide live video streaming of the open portion of its meetings and post the recordings of its meetings on its website. This legislation also required the State Ethics Commission to make certain documents publicly available on its website prior to Commission meetings pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. The live video stream and recordings of past open portions of Commission meetings are available on the Commission’s website, ethics.maryland.gov under the General Information, Meeting Video & Minutes link.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROVISIONS

None currently.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOBBYING PROVISIONS

The Commission supports modifying the lobbying provisions of the Public Ethics Law in the following manner:

- Section 5-709 requires lobbyists to report the total cost of a meal or reception to which all members of a legislative unit are invited. The current requirement may inadvertently inflate the actual amount spent on lobbying legislators when both legislators and non-legislators are invited. The Commission recommends that the General Assembly amend this provision by limiting the reporting requirement to the costs associated with the legislative invitees only.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE PROVISIONS

None currently.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS

None currently.

APPENDIX A

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION MEMBERS – 1979 TO PRESENT

* Herbert J. Belgrad	1979 to 1986
William B. Calvert	1979 to 1980
Jervis S. Finney	1979 to 1983
Reverend John Wesley Holland	1979 to 1987
* Barbara M. Steckel	1979 to 1990
Betty B. Nelson	1981 to 1988
* Thomas D. Washburne	1984 to 1986
* M. Peter Moser	1987 to 1989
* William J. Evans	1987 to 1993
Reverend C. Anthony Muse	1988 to 1990
Robert C. Rice, Ph.D.	1989 to 1993
* Mark C. Medairy, Jr.	1990 to 1999
Mary M. Thompson	1990 to 1994
Shirley P. Hill	1992 to 1994
* Michael L. May	1993 to 2003
Robert J. Romadka	1994 to 1997
April E. Sepulveda	1994 to 2003
* Charles O. Monk, II	1995 to 2003
* Dorothy R. Fait	1999 to 2005
D. Bruce Poole	2000 to 2004
* Julian L. Lapidus	2002 to 2014
Ava S. Feiner, Ph.D.	2003 to 2005
* Robert F. Scholz	2003 to 2012
Daryl D. Jones	2005 to 2006
* Janet E. McHugh	2005 to 2011 & 2015 to 2023
* Paul M. Vettori	2006 to 2016
H. Richard Duden, III	2006 to 2008
Jacob Yosef Miliman	2008 to 2019
Andrea M. Leahy	2011 to 2013
Robert G. Blue	2012 to 2015
Martin G. Madden	2014 to 2014
Rachel T. McGuckian	2014 to 2015
Kim L. Coble	2015 to 2019
Thomas B. Smyth, M.D.	2015 to 2016
James R. Benjamin, Jr.	2016 to 2018
* Craig D. Roswell	2016 to present
Aruna Miller	2019 to 2020
Geneau M. Thames	2019 to present
James N. Robey, Jr.	2019 to present
Bonnie A. Kirkland	2021 to present
Mariela Olivares	2023 to present

**Person served as Chair during some part of his/her term on the Commission.*