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By Chapter 513, Acts of 1979, the State Ethics Commission was established for the purpose of guarding against improper influence on public officials and officers by requiring disclosure of their financial affairs and by setting minimum standards for the conduct of State and local business. The act establishing the Commission abolished the Maryland Public Disclosure Advisory Board and the State Board of Ethics.

The Commission's authority encompasses conflicts of interest, financial disclosure, and lobbying disclosure.

The State Ethics Commission has the following major functions: First, it renders advisory opinions concerning the application of the Maryland Public Ethics law at the request of persons subject to the law and Commission's jurisdiction. The Commission may issue an advisory opinion concerning the application of the law at the request of any other person if the Commission deems the request appropriate. Second, it investigates complaints made to the Commission alleging a violation of the provisions of the Maryland Public Ethics Law. The Commission may also issue and investigate complaints on its own initiative. Third, the Commission receives and reviews financial disclosure statements filed by those covered by the law and required to file with the Commission. Fourth, it receives and reviews lobbyist registration and activity reports. Fifth, it assists and monitors the activity of local government in enacting local government public ethics laws as required by the State statute. Sixth, the Commission provides training and information to those covered by the statute and to the general public. Seventh, the Commission coordinates with the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics and the Judicial Branch in carrying out the provisions of the Maryland Public Ethics Law.

The Commission consists of five members appointed by the Governor for five-year terms. One member is nominated by the president of the Senate, and one by the speaker of the House of Delegates. Of the three remaining members, one must be a member of the other principal political party to which the incumbent governor does not belong. The Commission elects its own chairperson and appoints an executive director, a general counsel, and a staff counsel.

Financial disclosure forms and lobbyists' reports are available for public inspection.

## **MARYLAND FOOD CENTER AUTHORITY**

*Chairperson:* Henry L. Hein, 1984

*Vice-Chairperson:* Melvin R. Kenney, Sr., 1985

*Ex officio members:* Louis L. Goldstein, *Comptroller of the Treasury*; J. Max Millstone, *Secretary of General Services*; Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., *Secretary of Agriculture*; John M. Curtis, *Cooperative Extension Service, University of Maryland*.

*Appointed members:* Raymond E. Nicholas, Sr., 1983; James V. Melton, 1984; T. Allen Stradley, 1985; John J. Davis, 1986; John B. Foard, Jr., 1986; Austin A. Zimmer, 1987.

J. Gary Lee, *Executive Director*

Shirley Fernkas, *Assistant to Director*

George P. Maroulis, *Market Manager*

Administrative Office

201 West Preston Street, Room LL-4  
Baltimore 21201

Telephone: 383-2000

Maryland Wholesale Produce Market  
7460 Conowingo Avenue

Jessup 20794

Telephone: 799-3880

The Maryland Food Center Authority originally was created in 1967 as the Greater Baltimore Consolidated Wholesale Food Market Authority (Chapter 145, Acts of 1967). The Authority was formed to establish, operate, and maintain a consolidated food center within the Greater Baltimore Region. By Chapter 475, Acts of 1972, the Authority assumed the liabilities and interim operation of the Baltimore Wholesale Produce Market administered by the former New Marsh Wholesale Produce Market Authority. On January 15, 1976, the Baltimore Wholesale Produce Market facility reverted by deed to the City of Baltimore to be used for purposes other than as a produce market.

The Maryland Food Center Authority consists of twelve members. These include four ex officio members: the Comptroller of the Treasury, the Secretary of General Services, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Director of the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Maryland. The remaining eight members are appointed for five-year terms by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Of these, one must be a resident of Howard County. One or more terms expire each year and any member may be