

proper 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. 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 appoints an executive director, a general counsel, and a staff counsel.

The Commission prepares an annual report and a directory of firms that conduct a certain amount of business with the State. A pamphlet describing the Commission's program is available in limited quantities. Financial disclosure forms and lobbyists' reports are available for public inspection (Code 1957, Art. 40A).

MARYLAND FOOD CENTER AUTHORITY

Chairperson: Henry L. Hein, 1989

Melvin R. Kenney, Sr., 1985; T. Allen Stradley, 1985; John J. Davis, 1986; John B. Foard, Jr., 1986; Austin A. Zimmer, 1987; Raymond E. Nicholas, Sr., 1988; James V. Melton, 1989.

Ex officio: Louis L. Goldstein, *Comptroller of the Treasury*; Earl F. Seboda, *Secretary of General Services*; Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., *Secretary of Agriculture*; Craig S. Oliver, *Cooperative Extension Service, University of Maryland*.

Donald J. Darnall, *Acting Executive Director*

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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 and operate a consolidated food center within the Greater Baltimore Region.

The Authority is developing a 398-acre site for establishment of the Maryland Wholesale Food Center. The Center is located near Jessup at the intersection of U.S. Route 1 and Maryland Route 175 in Howard County. The Food Center now includes the Maryland Wholesale Produce Market, the Maryland Wholesale Seafood Market, and the Maryland Outlet Mall. The Outlet Mall features a farmers market, crafts market, and flower market, which are available to small farmers, craftspersons, and horticulturists to enable them to directly market their products. With so many different types of food operations in one location, the Food Center provides quality food products to Maryland consumers more efficiently and at less cost.

As of September 1, 1984, approximately 2,190,314 square feet of food warehousing space had been completed or was under construction within the Food Center. Furthermore, the Authority has signed commitments for construction of an additional 123,160 square feet of food warehousing space.

In 1983 the General Assembly asked the Authority to investigate the possibility of building a seafood industrial park in West Ocean City (Chap-