

of the citizens of Maryland in developing plans for the allocation and disbursement of Trust funds.

The Board of Trustees consists of fifteen members. Nine serve ex officio and six are appointed by the Governor. Of the appointed members, three represent local government, two represent the public, and one represents the utility industry. They serve three-year terms. Four of those serving ex officio are non-voting members. They include the chairpersons (or their designees) of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Environmental Matters Committee. (Code Natural Resources Article, secs. 13-101 through 13-107).

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Chairperson: Barbara M. Steckel, 1990

Rev. John Wesley Holland, 1987; William J. Evans, 1988; M. Peter Moser, 1989; Betty B. Nelson, 1991.

John E. O'Donnell, *Executive Director*

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The State Ethics Commission was established in 1979 to guard against improper influence on public officials or the appearance of conflict of interest (Chapter 513, Acts of 1979). The Commission, with the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics and the Judicial Disabilities Commission, administers and implements the Maryland Public Ethics Law. That law requires disclosure of the financial affairs of public officials and sets minimum standards for the conduct of State and local business. The same act 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 seven 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 to Commission jurisdiction. Second, it investigates complaints received that allege a violation of the Maryland Public Ethics Law. On its own initiative, the Commission also may issue and

investigate complaints. Third, the Commission receives and reviews financial disclosure statements filed by those so required. Fourth, it receives and reviews lobbyist registration and activity reports. Fifth, it assists and monitors the activity of local government in enacting local public ethics laws. Sixth, the Commission provides training and information for those covered by the statute and for the public. Seventh, the Commission coordinates its work with the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics and the Judicial Branch.

The Commission consists of five members appointed to five-year terms by the Governor. 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, general counsel, and 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

Austin A. Zimmer, 1987; Raymond E. Nicholas, Sr., 1988; James V. Melton, 1989; Melvin R. Kenney, Sr., 1990; T. Allen Stradley, 1990; John J. Davis, 1991; John B. Foard, Jr., 1991.

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, *Executive Director*

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