

license year, immediately notify the Commissioner thereof and shall pay the amount prescribed in this subparagraph or return his registration certificate and plates.

**SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1965.

Approved May 4, 1965.

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CHAPTER 875

(House Bill 806)

AN ACT to add a new Section 61A to the Code of Public Local Laws of Prince George's County (1963 Edition, being Article 17 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Prince George's County," subtitle "Public Officials," to follow immediately after Section 61 thereof, concerning the enactment of conflict of interest laws as they pertain to certain elected public officials, and setting forth the penalties therefor, AND FURTHER PROVIDE THAT THE LAWS AFFECTING THE MEMBERS OF THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION ESTABLISHED UNDER CHAPTER 448 OF THE ACTS OF 1927 AND THE MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY CHAPTER 122 OF THE ACTS OF 1918 BE INCLUDED WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

WHEREAS, our people's traditions of personal integrity and our national principle that a public office is a public trust demand that our public officials and those who deal with them exercise a high standard of conduct in transactions involving relationships between our County Government and the public; and

WHEREAS, no public official should conduct himself in any manner that would cast suspicion on himself or members of his official board, agency or department; and

WHEREAS, as government becomes increasingly complex, and our democratic processes draw citizens from every walk of life, there is increasing need for known standards of ethical conduct as a guide for public officers; and

WHEREAS, if government is to attract and hold competent persons, it should not unduly subject them to restrictions and regulations that would take from them the normal benefits of the democratic society and economy they serve; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the need for conflicts of interest statutes does not spring from any widespread malfeasance on the part of present office holders, but, rather, since the few may brand the many, the discernment of certain offences must be made certain and their elimination made sure; now therefore