

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That a new Section 61A be and it is hereby added 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, and to read as follows:

1. Definitions.

When used in this Section and unless otherwise expressly stated or unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Contract" means any claim, account or demand against or agreement with Prince George's County, express or implied, but shall not apply to those exceptions under part 7 of this section.

(b) "Financial interest" means ownership by the official or his spouse, brother, sister, or child, jointly or severally, of a total of more than three (3%) per centum of the invested capital or capital stock of or receipt of a total combined compensation of more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) per year from any firm, corporation, or association involved in the decision being made by the official or his agency, but shall not be construed to mean or include an interest or investment in land geographically remote from the land involved in the decision, a possibility of reverter, a mortgage, or other security interest in which the real party in interest is not as otherwise defined in this subsection.

(c) "Public Officials" means all elected and appointed officers and employees of the County, whether subject to the personnel merit system or otherwise, and to the County Commissioners, State's Attorney, County Treasurer, Judges of the Orphans Court, Clerk of the Circuit Court, County Surveyor, Sheriff, department heads, and all other officers, employees and members of boards, commissions, and agencies INCLUDING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION AND MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR OR hired or appointed by or under the authority of the County Commissioners or any other elected official or officials, which persons shall hereinafter be referred to as "official" or "officials".

(d) "Bribe" means money, property, gift, fee, payment, services, loan, entertainment, hospitality or other thing having a value of FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00) or more.

2. Bribery of Public Officials.

Under the provisions of this section, any person who gives or offers or causes to be given or offered a bribe or agreement to a public official or attempts, directly or indirectly, by threat, menace, deceit, suppression of truth, or other corrupt means, to influence a public official in the performance of his official duties is punishable by imprisonment for not more than ten years, or by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), or by both.

3. Receiving Bribes by Public Officials.

Under the provisions of this section, any public official who asks, receives, or agrees to receive any bribe upon any understanding that