
EXECUTIVE ORDER OF SEPTEMBER 4, 1969
CODE OF ETHICS

WHEREAS, The General Assembly by Section 14 A. of Article 41 of the Maryland Code, effective July 1, 1969, directed the Governor of Maryland to promulgate rules and regulations establishing a Code of Ethics for all executive branch officers and employees in the area of possible conflict between their private interests and official duties as State employees; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to that resolution the Governor appointed a committee, chaired by Judge Reuben Oppenheimer, to study and make recommendations with respect to the provisions of such a code; and

WHEREAS, said committee has issued a comprehensive report setting forth their recommendations for such a Code of Ethics and giving reasons for the various provisions thereof; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the recommendations of said Committee, The General Assembly in the 1969 session enacted Senate Bill 681, amending Article 19A of the Maryland Code to make it a crime for executive branch officers and employees to participate in transactions between the State and entities in which they, or members of their families, possess financial interests as defined in said bill;

NOW THEREFORE, I, MARVIN MANDEL, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR AND BY SECTION 14A OF ARTICLE 41 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND (1957 EDITION, 1968 SUPPLEMENT) HEREBY PROMULGATE THE FOLLOWING CODE OF ETHICS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, APPLICABLE TO ALL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

Article I.

Declaration of Policy

State officers and employees are responsible to all of the people of the State and not to any favored segment or group. The business and affairs of the State must be conducted in such an impartial manner that all persons understand that no State officer or employee can be improperly influenced. State officers and employees must avoid all situations where prejudice, bias, or opportunity for personal gain could influence their decisions. They must equally avoid circumstances suggesting that favoritism or personal gain is a motivating force in the conduct of State Government.

It is the intent of this Code to set forth the minimum ethical standards to be followed by officers and employees of the executive branch of the government. These standards are intended not only to require officers and employees to avoid activities that might result in using a public office or employment for private gain or the giving of favored treatment to any organization or person but also to maintain public confidence in the executive branch by prohibiting activities that might permit opportunity for personal gain or personal preference to influence decisions. The objectives are to maintain an impartial administration of the State government and to maintain public confidence in government.

Article II.

Definitions

1. "Agency" means any principal department, agency, commission, bureau, authority, or other instrumentality of the executive branch of the State of Maryland whose officers or employees are covered by the provisions of this Code of Ethics pursuant to Article V hereof.