

appointment as commissioners of members who were in office on June 30, 1977.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1977.

Approved May 26, 1977.

CHAPTER 938

(House Bill 464)

AN ACT concerning

Lobbying

FOR the purpose of revising the subtitle in Article 40 relating to lobbying; defining and redefining various terms; extending provisions of the subtitle to lobbying of the Executive Branch and its agencies; exempting various persons from application of the subtitle; requiring registration of certain lobbyists, their employers and any person who solicits others under certain circumstances; requiring registrants to file semiannual reports which include lobbying expenditures by various categories and certain gifts and their beneficiaries; providing that the Secretary of State notify an official of the inclusion of his or her name in a report; providing for a time period in which an official may file a written exception to the inclusion of his or her name in a report; requiring the preservation of records substantiating these reports; providing for the maintenance and inspection and summary of reports required by this subtitle; providing for enforcement by the Attorney General and Comptroller; providing for a criminal penalty; revising Article 33 to provide for a Maryland Public Disclosure Advisory Board to recommend forms, to review statements, and investigate complaints of violations of the lobbying subtitle of Article 40 and financial disclosure requirements, to report violations to the Attorney General and the appropriate State's Attorney, to issue advisory opinions, and to promulgate rules and regulations; changing the appointing process for members of the Maryland Public Disclosure Advisory Board; providing a cross-reference in Article 41; providing for the automatic expiration of this subtitle and the return of the preexisting law at a certain date; and relating generally to the disclosure of lobbying activities.