

(Senate Bill 1120)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Public Ethics

FOR the purpose of enacting a comprehensive statute concerning public ethics; revising, restating, and recodifying the laws of this State relating to public ethics, including conflicts of interest, financial disclosure, and lobbying disclosure; establishing the State Ethics Commission and specifying certain personnel and characteristics of it; providing certain duties, responsibilities, powers, and procedures to the State Ethics Commission; authorizing the State Ethics Commission to make and issue advisory opinions; authorizing certain functions concerned with the implementation of public ethics law to the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics and the Commission on Judicial Disabilities; providing certain procedures for the handling of complaints concerning public ethics law violations; providing certain judicial procedures for handling public ethics law violations; establishing certain penalties for public ethics law violations; abolishing the Maryland Public Disclosure Advisory Board and the State Board of Ethics; generally prohibiting officials from acting officially where there is a conflict of interest; disqualifying members of the General Assembly from voting where there is a conflict of interest; forbidding, with an exception, certain State employees from having certain outside employment; forbidding certain representational activities by certain persons in matters before or involving the State; imposing certain employment restrictions on current and former officials and employees; forbidding, with an exception, a financial interest by certain persons in certain noncompetitive bid transactions; forbidding, with an exception, the use of State office for private gain; forbidding contracting personnel to have certain outside employment; putting certain restrictions on the acceptance of gifts by certain persons; prohibiting the disclosure of certain confidential information by certain persons; requiring certain persons to file certain financial disclosure statements with the State Ethics Commission; establishing certain procedures for the filing of those statements; establishing certain sanctions for the failure to file these statements; authorizing certain financial disclosure requirements and procedures for judges and candidates for judgeships; requiring certain financial disclosure statements and procedures for certain bicounty officials; establishing certain lobbying disclosure requirements; providing that the State Ethics Commission will administer those lobbying disclosure requirements; requiring certain governmental