

(A) THE COMMISSION APPROPRIATE ADVISORY BODY SHALL ISSUE AN ADVISORY OPINION CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF THIS ARTICLE AT THE REQUEST OF A PERSON SUBJECT TO ITS PROVISIONS. THE COMMISSION MAY ISSUE AN ADVISORY OPINION CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE ARTICLE AT THE REQUEST OF ANY OTHER PERSON AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE. SUCH OPINIONS SHALL PREVAIL TO THE EXTENT OF ANY INCONSISTENCY WITH ADVISORY OPINIONS OF THE JUDICIAL ETHICS COMMITTEE OR THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS. AN ADVISORY OPINION CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE ARTICLE MAY BE ISSUED AT THE REQUEST OF ANY OTHER PERSON AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.

~~(B) THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE AN ADVISORY OPINION~~
(B) ADVISORY OPINIONS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (A) SHALL BE ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST, OR MORE PROMPTLY IF CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE IT.

~~(C) ADVISORY OPINIONS SHALL BE IN WRITING AND ARE PUBLIC RECORDS WHICH SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MARYLAND REGISTER. THE PUBLIC MAY INSPECT THE ADVISORY OPINIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 76A OF THIS CODE. BEFORE THE COMMISSION OR THE JUDICIAL ETHICS COMMITTEE OR THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS PUBLISHES AN ADVISORY OPINION OR MAKES IT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION, IT SHALL DELETE ANY MATERIAL TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WHICH MAY IDENTIFY THE PERSON WHO REQUESTED THE OPINION, AND DELETE THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON UNLESS THE PERSON CONSENTS TO THE IDENTIFICATION.~~

(C) ADVISORY OPINIONS SHALL BE IN WRITING AND BE PUBLISHED IN THE MARYLAND REGISTER. BEFORE AN ADVISORY OPINION IS MADE PUBLIC, ANY MATERIAL WHICH MAY IDENTIFY THE PERSON WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF THE OPINION, SHALL, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, BE DELETED, AND THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON SHALL NOT BE REVEALED.

~~(D) UNTIL THE COMMISSION UNLESS THE APPROPRIATE ADVISORY BODY OTHERWISE DECIDES, A PERSON SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE MAY RELY UPON A PUBLISHED OPINION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH BOARD OF ETHICS, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE ADVISORY BOARD, JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS, ANY COMPARABLE LOCAL BODY, OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR OR PREDECESSOR BODY, WHICH OPINIONS INTERPRET PRIOR LAWS OR RULES NOT PLAINLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE UNLESS THAT OPINION IS PLAINLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

(E) IF THE APPROPRIATE ADVISORY BODY HAS ISSUED AN ADVISORY OPINION WITH RESPECT TO A STATE OFFICIAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AND A QUESTION ARISING UNDER TITLE 4, THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS, UPON REQUEST OF THE OFFICIAL AND PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, SHALL ISSUE A FURTHER ADVISORY OPINION ON THAT QUESTION. TO THE EXTENT OF ANY INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN THE TWO OPINIONS, THE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL PREVAIL.