

(o) "Official in the execution branch" means any salaried appointee, or any employee who is classified or salaried at grade level 18 or above of any executive agency, or a person elected to statewide public office.

(p) "Official in the legislative branch" means any member, member-elect, or any employee who is classified or salaried at grade level 18 or above of the General Assembly, or of a commission established by the General Assembly or either house thereof.

(q) "Political contribution" means contributions as that term is defined in § 1-1 of Article 33 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

(r) "Registrant" means any person required to register pursuant to § 8(a).]

[6.] 5-101. Exemptions from [subtitle] TITLE.

(A) The provisions of this [subtitle] TITLE do not apply to THE FOLLOWING ACTS:

[(a)] (1) [Persons performing professional] PROFESSIONAL services in drafting bills or in advising and rendering opinions to clients as to the construction and effect of proposed or pending legislation where these services do not otherwise constitute activities as a registrant.

[(b)] (2) [Persons appearing] APPEARANCES before [a legislative committee] THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY or the Legislative Policy Committee [and] OR any committee or subcommittee thereof [at the] UPON ITS specific invitation or request [of the committee and who engage] BUT ONLY IF THE PERSON ENGAGES in no further or other activities in connection with the passage or defeat of legislation.

[(c)] (3) [Persons appearing only and solely on matters pertaining to their] APPEARANCES AS PART OF THE official duties [as] OF A duly elected or appointed [officials or employees] OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE of the State or A political subdivision of the State, or of the United States, and not [as representatives, in any manner,] IN BEHALF of any other entity.

[(d) A] (4) ACTIONS OF A publisher or working member of the press, radio, or television who in the ordinary course of THE business [disseminates] OF DISSEMINATING news or MAKING editorial comment to the general public [and who engages in no] BUT NOT further or other lobbying that would directly and specifically benefit the economic, business, or professional interests of that person or that person's employer.

[(e) Persons appearing] (5) APPEARANCES before a legislative committee at the specific invitation or request