

FOR THE PURPOSE OF GUARDING AGAINST IMPROPER INFLUENCE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACTS THIS MARYLAND PUBLIC ETHICS LAW TO REQUIRE CERTAIN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO DISCLOSE THEIR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS AND TO SET MINIMUM ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR THE CONDUCT OF STATE AND LOCAL BUSINESS.

(C) LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION OF TITLE.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTENDS THAT THIS TITLE, EXCEPT ITS PROVISIONS FOR CRIMINAL SANCTIONS, BE LIBERALLY CONSTRUED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PURPOSE.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section formerly was Art. 40A, § 1-102.

The only changes are in style.

In subsection (a)(1) of this section, the former words "public officials and officers" have been replaced with the words "government officials and employees" for clarity and for emphasis on the inclusiveness of the statement.

In subsection (b) of this section, the former words "State officials and public officials" have been replaced with the words "certain government officials and employees" to conform more accurately to the intent of the Maryland Public Ethics Law, and to emphasize the requirement for financial disclosure by some "employees" as well as local officials.

In subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the words "officials" and "employees" are used in their broadest sense and are not intended to be limited by the definitions of those terms.

Also in subsection (b) of this section, the word "ethical" is added to modify "standards" for clarity.

15-102. DEFINITIONS.

(A) IN GENERAL.

IN THIS TITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED UNLESS:

- (1) THE CONTEXT CLEARLY REQUIRES A DIFFERENT MEANING; OR
- (2) A DIFFERENT DEFINITION IS ADOPTED FOR A PARTICULAR PROVISION.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This subsection is new language derived without substantive change from former Art. 40A, § 1-201(a).

(B) ADVISORY BODY.

"ADVISORY BODY" MEANS: