

CHAPTER 631

(House Bill 2)

AN ACT concerning

Ethics Law - Lobbyist Ethics Reform

FOR the purpose of modifying, clarifying, and expanding provisions of the Maryland Public Ethics Law relating to regulated lobbyists and lobbying activities; extending for a certain period of time the period in which a criminal prosecution for a violation of the Public Ethics Law may be instituted; requiring the State Ethics Commission to provide certain staff resources under certain circumstances; requiring the Commission to provide a certain training course for regulated lobbyists and prospective regulated lobbyists under certain circumstances; requiring regulated lobbyists to attend a certain training course within a certain period of time; requiring the Commission to provide certain information relating to certain provisions of the Public Ethics Law; authorizing the Commission to require certain regulated lobbyists to file certain reports or information with the Commission, impose certain fines, and suspend the registration of regulated lobbyists under certain circumstances; authorizing the Commission to suspend or revoke the registration of regulated lobbyists under certain circumstances; prohibiting regulated lobbyists whose registrations are suspended or revoked from engaging in lobbying for compensation; requiring the Commission to initiate certain complaints within a certain period of time; establishing a procedure for reinstatement of a lobbyist whose registration has been suspended or revoked; altering certain requirements relating to registration as a regulated lobbyist; altering certain exceptions from the registration requirement; altering certain notice and reporting requirements for the termination of registration; requiring certain regulated lobbyists to terminate registration under certain circumstances; providing a certain exception to the requirement to terminate registration until a certain date under certain circumstances; requiring certain individual regulated lobbyists to file a certain report with the Commission disclosing certain political contributions; establishing certain procedures for reporting by regulated lobbyists of meals and receptions to which are invited all members of a legislative unit; requiring the Commission to develop procedures for electronic filing and public inspection of certain reports of certain regulated lobbyists; prohibiting certain activities by certain regulated lobbyists engaging in certain lobbying activities; prohibiting certain regulated lobbyists from organizing or establishing certain political committees or forwarding certain tickets to a potential contributor; requiring certain persons who compensate a regulated lobbyist and who make certain contributions under certain circumstances to file a report with the State Board of Elections; specifying that certain contributions are attributable to certain entities for the purposes of the report; requiring disclosure of certain contributions from certain persons involved in certain business entities to the chief executive officer of the entity; increasing and establishing certain criminal penalties; making stylistic changes; defining certain terms; providing for the