BY adding to

Article - Business Regulation

Section 6-404

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Business Regulation

6-205.

- (a) (1) The Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee may investigate an alleged violation of this title.
- (2) (i) In the course of any examination, investigation, or hearing, the Secretary of State may subpoen witnesses, administer oaths, examine an individual under oath, SERVE WRITTEN INTERROGATORIES, and compel production of records, books, papers, and other documents.
- (ii) In the course of any examination, investigation, or hearing, the legal counsel for the Office of the Secretary of State may administer oaths and examine an individual under oath.
- (iii) Information obtained under this subsection is not admissible in a subsequent criminal proceeding against the person who provided the information.

 6-304.
- (a) If the Secretary of State finds that an applicant for registration has complied with this title and the regulations adopted under it, the Secretary of State shall approve the application.
- (b) If the Secretary of State finds that an applicant for registration has not complied with this title and the regulations adopted under it applicable to registration, the Secretary of State:
- $_{\rm (1)}$ shall notify the applicant of the reasons the applicant is not in compliance; AND
- (2) FOR EACH MONTH OR PART OF A MONTH THAT AN APPLICANT IS NOT IN COMPLIANCE, MAY ASSESS A FEE OF \$25-30 DAYS AFTER A SECOND NOTICE IS SENT, BY RECULAR MAIL, TO THE APPLICANT AT THE ADDRESS ON FILE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

6-404.

(A) IF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FINDS THAT AN APPLICANT FOR REGISTRATION HAS COMPLIED WITH THIS TITLE AND THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER IT, THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL APPROVE THE APPLICATION.