

Chapter 284

(House Bill 1059)

AN ACT concerning

Bicounty Commissions – Ethics – Certification of Compliance

PG/MC 103–22

FOR the purpose of requiring each bicounty commission to certify to the Ethics Commission that the bicounty commission is in compliance with requirements relating to conflicts of interest, financial disclosure, and lobbying; providing that regulations adopted by a bicounty commission relating to lobbying may be modified to make the regulations relevant to the bicounty commission; and generally relating to bicounty commissions and ethics.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – General Provisions
Section 5–823, 5–829, and 5–830
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – General Provisions

5–823.

(a) Each bicounty commission shall adopt regulations relating to conflicts of interest of its employees.

(b) At a minimum, the conflict of interest standards applicable to public officials under Subtitle 5 of this title shall apply to the employees of each bicounty commission.

(c) Each bicounty commission shall file with the Ethics Commission a copy of its regulations relating to conflicts of interest.

(d) On or before April 30 each year, each bicounty commission shall:

(1) **(I)** prepare an annual report on its conflict of interest issues and regulations during the previous calendar year;

[(2)] (II) submit the report to the governing body of each county in which the bicounty commission operates; and

[(3)] (III) publish the report on the website of the bicounty commission;
AND

(2) CERTIFY TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION THAT THE BICOUNTY COMMISSION IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

5–829.

(a) Each bicounty commission shall adopt regulations relating to financial disclosure by its employees.

(b) The regulations required by this section:

(1) shall be substantially similar to the State financial disclosure provisions of Subtitle 6 of this title; and

(2) may not conflict with the financial disclosure provisions for commissioners and applicants specified in §§ 5–824 through 5–828 of this subtitle.

(c) Each bicounty commission shall submit the regulations adopted under this section, and any amendments to the regulations, to:

(1) the Ethics Commission; and

(2) the governing body of each county in which the bicounty commission operates.

(D) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30 EACH YEAR, EACH BICOUNTY COMMISSION SHALL CERTIFY TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION THAT THE BICOUNTY COMMISSION IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

5–830.

(a) Each bicounty commission shall adopt regulations relating to lobbying of that bicounty commission.

(b) **[At a minimum, the] THE** regulations adopted by a bicounty commission:

(1) AT A MINIMUM, shall be similar to the provisions of Subtitle 7 of this title; **BUT**

(2) MAY BE MODIFIED TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO MAKE THE REGULATIONS RELEVANT TO THE BICOUNTY COMMISSION.

(c) Each bicounty commission shall submit to the Ethics Commission a copy of its regulations relating to lobbying.

(d) On or before April 30 each year, each bicounty commission shall:

(1) **(I)** prepare an annual report on the lobbying before the bicounty commission and regulation of that lobbying by the bicounty commission for the previous calendar year;

[(2)] **(II)** submit the report to the governing body of each county in which the bicounty commission operates; and

[(3)] **(III)** publish the report on the website of the bicounty commission;
AND

(2) CERTIFY TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION THAT THE BICOUNTY COMMISSION IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2022.