

Bill No.: _____

Requested: _____

Committee: _____

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By: **Prince George’s County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Bicounty Commissions – Public Ethics – Financial Disclosure Statements**

3 **PG/MC 105–26**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring an applicant for appointment as a commissioner of a bicounty
5 commission to submit a certain statement to the Prince George’s County Office of
6 Ethics and Accountability; requiring the chief administrative officer for Prince
7 George’s County to transmit the financial disclosure statements of commissioners or
8 appointed applicants of bicounty commissions to the Office; requiring the Office,
9 rather than the chief administrative officer for Prince George’s County, to retain the
10 statements, return the statements to certain applicants under certain
11 circumstances, provide certain notice to the State Ethics Commission, record certain
12 information of individuals examining or copying the statement, and maintain, make
13 available, and establish procedures governing the inspection of the statements; and
14 generally relating to financial disclosure statements for commissioners and
15 applicants for appointment as commissioners of bicounty commissions.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
17 Article – General Provisions
18 Section 5–822, 5–824(c)(1) and (2), and 5–825(a)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
2 Article – General Provisions
3 Section 5–825(b)(1), 5–826, and 5–827
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

8 **Article – General Provisions**

9 5–822.

10 In this part, “commissioner” means a commissioner of a bicounty commission.

11 5–824.

12 (c) (1) Each commissioner shall file a financial disclosure statement
13 electronically with the Ethics Commission.

14 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, each
15 commissioner shall also print a paper copy of the electronically filed financial disclosure
16 statement and submit it to the chief administrative officer of the county from which the
17 commissioner is appointed.

18 5–825.

19 (a) An applicant for appointment as commissioner shall file the financial
20 disclosure statement required by this part electronically with the Ethics Commission.

21 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an applicant
22 shall also print a paper copy of the electronically filed statement and submit it to:

23 **(I)** the chief administrative officer of the county from which the
24 applicant seeks appointment; **AND**

1 **(II) IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, THE PRINCE GEORGE’S**
2 **COUNTY OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

3 5–826.

4 (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the chief
5 administrative officer of a county shall transmit each financial disclosure statement of a
6 commissioner or appointed applicant to the executive director of the appropriate bicounty
7 commission **AND, IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY**
8 **OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

9 (2) In Montgomery County, the county council shall transmit each
10 financial disclosure statement of a commissioner or appointed applicant to the
11 Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission to the executive director of the
12 commission.

13 (b) The **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE**
14 **FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES FOR THE ENTIRE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE**
15 **COMMISSIONER:**

16 **(1) THE** executive director [and];

17 **(2) IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY,** the chief administrative officer [shall
18 retain the statement for the entire term of office of the commissioner]; **AND**

19 **(3) IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY**
20 **OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

21 (c) (1) [Within 15 days after an appointment to a bicounty commission has
22 become final, if] **IF** an applicant provided a paper copy of a financial disclosure
23 **STATEMENT, THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES, WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER**
24 **AN APPOINTMENT TO A BICOUNTY COMMISSION HAS BECOME FINAL, SHALL RETURN**
25 **TO EACH APPLICANT WHO IS NOT APPOINTED ALL COPIES OF THE STATEMENT**
26 **SUBMITTED BY THAT APPLICANT:**

27 **(I) the** county council [and];

1 **(II) IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY**, the chief administrative officer [of
2 the county involved shall return to each applicant who is not appointed the original and all
3 copies of the statement submitted by that applicant]; **AND**

4 **(III) IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, THE PRINCE GEORGE’S**
5 **COUNTY OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

6 (2) On notification by the chief administrative officer [of the county
7 involved] **FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY OR THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY OFFICE**
8 **OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY** that an applicant was not appointed, the Ethics
9 Commission shall promptly delete the **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE** statement electronically
10 filed by the applicant.

11 5–827.

12 (a) The Ethics Commission, the executive director of each bicounty commission,
13 [and] the chief administrative officer [of each county] **FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, AND**
14 **THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY:**

15 (1) shall maintain financial disclosure statements of commissioners and
16 appointed applicants received under this part;

17 (2) shall make the statements available to the public for examination and
18 copying during normal office hours; and

19 (3) may charge a reasonable fee and adopt reasonable administrative
20 procedures for the examination and copying of a statement.

21 (b) The Ethics Commission, the executive director of each bicounty commission,
22 [and] the chief administrative officer [of each county] **FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, AND**
23 **THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY OFFICE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY** shall
24 require that any person examining or copying a statement shall record:

25 (1) the person’s name and home address; and

26 (2) the name of the individual whose statement was examined or copied.

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1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2026.