

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1179 (Delegates Bobo and O'Donnell)  
Environmental Matters

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**Public Ethics - Former Members of the General Assembly, Legislative Branch  
Officials, and Executive Branch Officials - Lobbying Restrictions**

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This bill prohibits a former member of the General Assembly from registering as a regulated lobbyist until two years after the member leaves office. If a member resigns during a regular session, however, the former member may not register as a regulated lobbyist until the conclusion of the second regular session that begins after the member leaves office.

The bill also prohibits the following individuals from registering as a regulated lobbyist for two years after leaving State office: (1) a former official of the Legislative Branch; (2) the Governor; (3) the Lieutenant Governor; (4) the Comptroller; (5) the Attorney General; and (6) a former official of the Executive Branch who had duties substantially relating to legislative matters and the General Assembly. The prohibition does not apply, however, to a public official who was only a member of a board and received compensation that is less than 25% of the lowest annual compensation at a State grade level 16.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** A “regulated lobbyist” is a person or entity required under the Maryland Public Ethics Law to register with the State Ethics Commission because the person or entity generally has made certain expenditures and/or received certain compensation to influence legislative or executive action.

A former member of the General Assembly may not assist or represent another party for compensation in a matter that is the subject of legislative action until the conclusion of the next regular session that begins after a member leaves office. The prohibition does not apply to a former member’s representation of a municipal corporation, county, or State governmental entity.

A former official or employee other than a General Assembly member may not assist or represent a party, other than the State, in a case, contract, or other specific matter for compensation that involves State government if the former official or employee participated significantly in the matter while employed by the State.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** State Ethics Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2014  
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