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Montgomery County

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Subcommittees*

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Health Occupations and  
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*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
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**Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 59**  
**Ethics - Local Government - Registration of Lobbyists**  
**March 23, 2022**

House Bill 59 is designed to strengthen lobbying provisions within local ethics ordinances.

Under current law, Maryland's Counties and Municipalities (unless exempted) are required to have ethics ordinances including lobbying provisions that are "substantially similar" to state provisions. COMAR regulations provide guidance in the form of 2 model ethics ordinances: Model A and Model B

In practice, County and Municipal ethics laws often fail to cover what would be considered lobbying activity to an ordinary person or under state rules. Because of the weak guidance in COMAR, the definition of lobbying and who must register varies greatly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Some local governments follow the strong definition in the Model A ordinance while others have adopted the weaker definition in the Model B ordinance.

HB59 addresses this problem by strengthening the guidance in COMAR. It ensures that the definition of lobbying will more closely adhere to what is currently in the Model A ordinance.

HB59 was written in consultation with DLS and state ethics commission staff. It was unanimously approved by the House of Delegates.

I ask for your favorable report.

## House Bill 59 - Ethics - Local Government - Registration of Lobbyists Sponsor Testimony - Additional Information

### A. Maryland Counties

County	2010 Pop	Ordinance
Montgomery	971,777	Legislative = A Executive = B
Prince George's	863,420	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Baltimore County	805,029	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Baltimore City	620,961	Legislative = A Executive = B
Anne Arundel	537,656	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Howard County	287,085	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Harford County	244,826	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Frederick County	240,336	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Carroll County	167,134	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Charles County	146,551	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Washington County	147,430	<a href="#">Model B</a>
St. Mary's County	105,151	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Cecil County	101,108	Model B
Wicomico County	98,733	Model B
Calvert County	88,737	Model A
Worcester County	51,454	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Queen Anne's	47,798	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Talbot County	37,782	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Dorchester County	32,618	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Allegheny County	75,087	<a href="#">Model B</a>
Caroline County	33,066	<a href="#">Model A</a>
Kent County	20,197	<a href="#">Model B</a>

Model A = strong, Model B = weak

## House Bill 59 - Ethics - Local Government - Registration of Lobbyists Sponsor Testimony - Additional Information

### B. Prince George's Municipalities

Municipality	Pop	Ordinance	Exemption	FY oper	Lobbying registrations
Bowie	54,727	Model A	None	\$64M	2 lobbyists currently registered. In past 5 years, 8 unique lobbyists registered
College Park	30,413	Model B	None	\$29M	none in last 5 years
Laurel	25,115	Model A	None	\$36M	only 1 registered lobbyist (pair of developers)
Greenbelt	23,068	Model A	None	\$32M	none
Hyattsville	17,557	Model B	None	\$23M	none in last 5 years
New Carrollton	12,135	Model A	None	\$12M	none in last 5 years
Bladensburg	9,148	Model B	None	\$7M	
Mount Rainier	8,080	Model A	Lobbying	\$8M	none currently
Riverdale Park	6,956	Model B	None	\$8M	
Cheverly	6,173	Model B	None	\$8M	
Seat Pleasant	4,542	Model B	None	\$12M	

### C. Montgomery Municipalities

Municipality	Pop	Ordinance	Exemption	FY oper	Lobbying registrations
Gaithersburg	59,933	Model B	None	\$70M	none in last 5 years
Rockville	61,209	Model B	None	\$86M	none
Takoma Park	16,715	Model B	None	\$35M	none in last 5 years
Poolesville	4,883	Model B	None	\$4M	
Kensington	2,213	Model A	Full	\$3M	none in last 5 years

**House Bill 59 - Ethics - Local Government - Registration of Lobbyists  
Sponsor Testimony - Additional Information**

**D. Other Large Municipalities**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>2020 Pop</b>	<b>Ordinance</b>	<b>Exemption</b>	<b>FY oper</b>	<b>Lobbying registrations</b>
Frederick	78,171	Model B	none	\$112M	Awaiting response
Hagerstown	43,527	Model B	none	\$49M	Awaiting response
Annapolis	40,812	Model B	none	\$91M	none
Salisbury	33,050	Model B	none	\$45M	none
Cumberland	19,076	Model B	none	\$28M	none
Westminster	20,126	Model B	none	\$18M	Awaiting response
Easton	17,101	Model B	none	\$24M	none
Aberdeen	16,254	Model B	none	\$18M	none
Cambridge	13,096	Model B	none	\$17M	Awaiting response
Bel Air	10,661	Model B	none	\$15M	none
Mount Airy	9,654	Model B	none	\$5M	none
Frostburg	7,027	Model B	none	\$5M	none
La Plata	10,159	Model B	none	\$10M	none
Ocean City	6,844	Model B	none	\$92M	none