



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 25, 2022

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 59, *Ethics – Local Governments – Registration of Lobbyists*
Support with Amendments

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 59, *Local Governments – Registration of Lobbyists*, with amendments requested by the sponsor to clarify that the intent of the bill is to require that the scope of lobbying activities governed by local ethics laws be comparable to the scope of lobbying activities governed by the State Ethics Law. With the sponsor's amendments, House Bill 59 retains the general authority granted to counties and municipalities to enact laws that are substantially similar to the State Ethics Law. However, it expressly provides that local ethics laws must require any entity that engages in lobbying activities comparable to those that are identified in the State Ethics Law regarding State-level lobbying (§5-207 of the General Provisions Article) to register with the appropriate local agency and be treated as a regulated lobbyist at the local level. The bill also requires the State Ethics Commission to modify current regulations that establish model provisions for local ethics laws to reflect this new requirement.

I think it serves the public interest to require that the scope of lobbying activities regulated at the local level be comparable to the scope of lobbying activities regulated at the State level and respectfully request that the Environment and Transportation Committee give this bill a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee