

# Executive Department - State Ethics Commission

## MISSION

To carry out legislative mandates and policy in support of the public interest in having Maryland's government and its lobbyists conform to established standards of ethical conduct and disclosure.

## VISION

A State in which government decisions, operations and services are carried out consistent with high ethical standards.

## KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### Goal 1. Support public trust in its officials and employees.

**Obj. 1.1** Ensure that statutory disclosure filing requirements for officials and lobbyists are met.

**Obj. 1.2** Develop and distribute information through the Internet or other means to explain Ethics Law requirements to officials, employees, regulated lobbyists and others impacted by the Public Ethics Law.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Individuals required to file financial disclosure forms	14,035	13,889	13,368	14,647	14,972	14,850	14,900
Percentage of financial disclosure forms received by due date	81%	83%	86%	86%	88%	88%	89%
Financial disclosure forms reviewed	5,306	14,155	14,122	14,202	14,481	14,340	14,420
Lobbyist registrations received and reviewed	3,195	3,160	3,336	3,956	3,872	3,900	3,930
Lobbyist activity reports received and reviewed	5,424	5,709	6,125	6,136	6,428	6,484	6,544
State officials receiving training	1,543	1,022	1,279	1,506	1,243	1,150	1,095
Lobbyists receiving training	286	250	343	291	345	295	325

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**Goal 2. To prevent the conduct of State business from being subject to improper influence and avoid, to the extent reasonably possible, the appearance of improper influence through fair but rigorous application of the Public Ethics Law.**

**Obj. 2.1** Provide accurate and timely advice within 60 days to those subject to the requirements of the Ethics Law.

**Obj. 2.2** Maintain a system to issue and process complaints and other investigative or enforcement activities consistent with the requirements of the Public Ethics Law. Complete all complaint matters within twelve months of initiation.

**Obj. 2.3** Maintain standards for local government ethics laws and rules and ensure requirements are met through technical assistance and review procedures. Review all changes in local programs and respond within 60 days.

Performance Measures	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Commission informal ethics advice issued	478	404	466	500	480	475	475
Percentage of advice provided within 60 days	91%	94%	94%	98%	98%	95%	95%
<sup>1</sup> Formal legal complaints issued	83	55	30	62	126	100	85
Number of current year complaint actions completed	57	12	25	50	51	75	70
Number of prior year complaint actions completed	119	11	31	2	17	7	10
Amount of late fees, fines or settlements paid	\$14,700	\$15,610	\$4,580	\$7,990	\$4,800	\$5,500	\$5,000
Percentage of completed complaint actions closed within twelve months of initiation	90%	42%	83%	80%	42%	75%	82%
Number of local governments requesting assistance	145	86	35	31	21	20	20
Local government ordinances approved	71	32	18	12	12	7	7
Percentage of responses provided within 60 days	86%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**NOTES**

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<sup>1</sup> The large increase in complaints issued in fiscal year 2016 is due to the Commission issuing 33 complaints immediately after the beginning of fiscal year 2016 and issuing 66 complaints immediately prior to the end of fiscal year 2016. It is expected that these complaints will be completed within twelve months of initiation.