

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	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Est.	2022 Est.
Individuals required to file financial disclosure forms	14,972	15,500	16,154	16,627	16,564	15,875	16,193
Percentage of financial disclosure forms received by due date	88%	87%	86%	84%	92%	86%	87%
Financial disclosure forms reviewed	14,481	14,726	14,035	7,091	29,691	15,875	16,193
Lobbyist registrations received and reviewed	3,872	3,406	3,556	3,799	3,549	3,450	3,520
Lobbyist activity reports received and reviewed	6,428	6,512	6,527	6,709	6,614	6,525	6,580
State officials receiving training	1,243	1,316	2,041	1,362	2,168	1,350	1,377
Lobbyists receiving training	345	320	322	328	404	350	320

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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	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Est.	2022 Est.
Commission informal ethics advice issued	480	488	564	616	662	600	600
Percentage of advice provided within 60 days	98%	97%	90%	93%	97%	95%	95%
Formal legal complaints issued	126	36	43	13	51	45	45
Number of current year complaint actions completed	51	27	18	6	35	35	35
Number of prior year complaint actions completed	17	68	4	19	3	10	10
Amount of late fees, fines or settlements paid	\$4,800	\$8,649	\$6,650	\$3,600	\$5,500	\$3,500	\$3,600
Percentage of completed complaint actions closed within twelve months of initiation	42%	75%	42%	46%	69%	71%	73%
Number of local governments requesting assistance	21	25	41	56	19	25	25
Local government ordinances approved	12	10	22	38	7	10	10
Percentage of responses provided within 60 days	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%