

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	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Est.	2021 Est.
Individuals required to file financial disclosure forms	14,647	14,972	15,500	16,154	16,627	16,960	17,299
Percentage of financial disclosure forms received by due date	86%	88%	87%	86%	84%	86%	87%
Financial disclosure forms reviewed	14,202	14,481	14,726	14,035	7,091	15,200	16,700
Lobbyist registrations received and reviewed	3,956	3,872	3,406	3,556	3,799	3,875	3,953
Lobbyist activity reports received and reviewed	6,136	6,428	6,512	6,527	6,709	6,783	6,919
State officials receiving training	1,506	1,243	1,316	2,041	1,362	1,389	1,417
Lobbyists receiving training	291	345	320	322	328	335	342

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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	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Est.	2021 Est.
Commission informal ethics advice issued	500	480	488	564	616	550	550
Percentage of advice provided within 60 days	98%	98%	97%	90%	93%	90%	90%
Formal legal complaints issued	62	126	36	43	13	45	45
Number of current year complaint actions completed	50	51	27	18	6	35	35
Number of prior year complaint actions completed	2	17	68	4	19	10	10
Amount of late fees, fines or settlements paid	\$7,990	\$4,800	\$8,649	\$6,650	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
Percentage of completed complaint actions closed within twelve months of initiation	80%	42%	75%	42%	46%	77%	77%
Number of local governments requesting assistance	31	21	25	41	56	50	50
Local government ordinances approved	12	12	10	22	38	30	30
Percentage of responses provided within 60 days	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%