

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	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Individuals required to file financial disclosure forms	16,154	16,627	16,564	17,807	18,344	18,711	19,085
Percentage of financial disclosure forms received by due date	86%	84%	92%	89%	89%	90%	90%
Financial disclosure forms reviewed	14,035	7,091	29,691	19,390	19,582	19,778	19,976
Lobbyist registrations received and reviewed	3,556	3,799	3,549	3,509	3,815	3,891	3,969
Lobbyist activity reports received and reviewed	6,527	6,709	6,614	6,741	7,009	7,149	7,291
State officials receiving training	2,041	1,362	2,168	1,344	2,199	1,430	2,236
Lobbyists receiving training	322	328	404	336	362	398	333

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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	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2020 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Commission informal ethics advice issued	564	616	662	769	803	830	875
Percentage of advice provided within 60 days	90%	93%	97%	93%	92%	95%	95%
Formal legal complaints issued	43	13	51	5	9	10	10
Number of current year complaint actions completed	18	6	35	4	4	7	7
Number of prior year complaint actions completed	4	19	3	7	0	5	5
Amount of late fees, fines or settlements paid	\$6,650	\$3,600	\$5,500	\$2,400	\$1,750	\$3,000	\$3,000
Percentage of completed complaint actions closed within twelve months of initiation	42%	46%	69%	81%	100%	75%	75%
Number of local governments requesting assistance	41	56	19	35	39	45	30
Local government ordinances approved	22	38	7	14	15	25	25
Percentage of responses provided within 60 days	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%