

NOTICE OF PASSAGE OF BILL 18-3
WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Take Notice that Bill 18-3 (County Government - County Ethics Law) was passed by the County Commissioners on April 17, 2018.

A fair summary of the bill is as follows:

Title CG5 - Ethics, Subtitle I - County Ethics Law. (Repeals and reenacts the Worcester County Public Ethics Law to comply with revisions to the State Ethics Law adopted by the Maryland General Assembly in 2017 as referenced in State Government Article, Subtitle 8, Annotated Code of Maryland. Specific sections of the County Ethics Law to be amended are referenced below.)

§ CG 5-104. Conflicts of interest. (Adds a new subparagraph 4 to the “Participation prohibitions” subsection to provide that this subsection does not apply to an individual who is a public official only as a member of a board and who receives minimal compensation; provides that a former regulated lobbyist who becomes a public official or employee may not participate for one calendar year in a matter for which the lobbyist previously assisted or represented another party for compensation in the matter; adds new provisions to the “Use of prestige of office” subsection to specify that an official or employee may not use their position, except as part of their official duties, to influence the award of a County contract to a specific person, may not initiate a solicitation for a person to retain a particular lobbyist, may not use public resources or title to solicit a regulated political contribution, and may not assist a party for compensation in a matter that is the subject of legislative action for one calendar year from the date the Commissioner leaves office.)

§ CG 5-105. Financial disclosure - local elected officials and candidates to be local elected officials. (Adds a new subparagraph 5 to the “Public record” subsection to provide that for statements submitted on or after January 1, 2019, the Ethics Board may not provide public access to a portion of a statement that includes an individual's home address; and adds a new provision to the “Contents of statement” subsection regarding “sources of earned income” to provide that for a statement filed on or after January 1, 2019, if the individual's spouse is a regulated lobbyist, the individual must disclose the entity that has engaged the spouse for lobbying purposes.)

§ CG 5-106. Financial disclosure - employees and appointed officials. (Adds Deputy Department Heads, all Non-Classified employees that serve in a supervisory capacity and potentially other employees designated by resolution of the County Commissioners to the list of appointed officials and employees of Worcester County to which the financial disclosure rules and procedures of this section apply.)

This bill becomes effective forty-five (45) days from the date of its passage.

This is only a fair summary of the bill. A full copy of the bill is posted on the Legislative Bulletin Board in the main hall of the Worcester County Government Center outside Room 1103, is available for public inspection in Room 1103 of the Worcester County Government Center and is available on the County Website at www.co.worcester.md.us .

THE WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS