

# 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	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Individuals required to file financial disclosure forms	13,837	14,035	13,889	13,368	14,647	14,150	14,225
Percentage of financial disclosure forms received by due date	80%	81%	83%	86%	86%	87%	87%
Percentage of forms filed by due date submitted electronically	95%	96%	97%	98%	99%	99%	99%
Financial disclosure forms reviewed	3,650	5,306	14,155	14,122	14,202	14,150	14,225
Lobbyist registrations received and reviewed	3,144	3,195	3,160	3,336	3,956	3,675	3,700
Lobbyist activity reports received and reviewed	5,304	5,424	5,709	6,125	6,136	6,150	6,175
State officials receiving training	3,157	1,543	1,022	1,279	1,506	1,345	1,200
Lobbyists receiving training	245	286	250	343	291	315	345

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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.

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>2011 Act.</b>	<b>2012 Act.</b>	<b>2013 Act.</b>	<b>2014 Act.</b>	<b>2015 Act.</b>	<b>2016 Est.</b>	<b>2017 Est.</b>
Commission informal ethics advice issued	404	478	404	466	500	475	475
Formal advisory opinions issued	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of advice provided within 60 days	88%	91%	94%	94%	98%	95%	95%
Formal legal complaints issued	171	83	55	30	62	70	70
Number of current year complaint actions completed	46	57	12	25	50	60	60
Number of prior year complaint actions completed	8	119	11	31	2	10	10
Amount of late fees, fines or settlements paid	8,710	14,700	15,610	4,580	7,990	6,000	6,000
Percentage of completed complaint actions closed within twelve months of initiation	72%	90%	42%	83%	80%	80%	80%
Number of local governments requesting assistance	24	145	86	35	31	20	20
Local government ordinances approved	6	71	32	18	12	7	7
Percentage of responses provided within 60 days	100%	86%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%