

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 1002 (Delegate Hough, *et al.*)  
Environmental Matters

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**Public Ethics - Former Officials and Employees - Lobbying Restrictions**

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This bill prohibits a former official of the Executive or Judicial branch of State government from registering as a regulated lobbyist within one year after leaving office or State employment. The prohibition does not apply, however, to a public official who was only a member of a board and received compensation of less than 25% of the lowest annual compensation at a State grade level 16.

The bill also prohibits (1) a former employee of the Legislative branch of State government from registering as a regulated lobbyist within one year after leaving State employment and (2) a former member of the General Assembly from registering as a regulated lobbyist within two years after leaving office.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A “regulated lobbyist” is a person or entity required under the Maryland Public Ethics Law to register with the State Ethics Commission because the person or entity generally has made certain expenditures and/or received certain compensation to influence legislative or executive action.

A former member of the General Assembly may not assist or represent another party for compensation in a matter that is the subject of legislative action until the conclusion of the next regular session that begins after a member leaves office. The prohibition does not apply to a former member's representation of a municipal corporation, county, or State governmental entity.

A former official or employee other than a General Assembly member may not assist or represent a party, other than the State, in a case, contract, or other specific matter for compensation that involves State government if the former official or employee participated significantly in the matter while employed by the State.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2014  
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Analysis by: Richard L. Duncan

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510