

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 33 – Election Code

Section 14-103(b) and (c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Government

Section ~~15-505(b) and (c)(2)(i)~~, 15-701, 15-703(f), 15-713, and 15-715

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Government

Section 15-703(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Election Law

Section 13-226

Annotated Code of Maryland

(As enacted by Chapter 291 (S.B. 1) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002)

#### Preamble

WHEREAS, To promote and retain confidence and trust in government, the General Assembly has adopted an extensive system of ethics laws to govern the activities of those individuals who are paid to attempt to influence the work of the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch; and

WHEREAS, It is of paramount importance that members of the general public who are not paid lobbyists continue to participate in the legislative process without administrative impediments; and

WHEREAS, Although the current law governing lobbyist registration and reporting provides substantial and appropriate ethical requirements for paid lobbyists, some provisions of those laws have been misconstrued to apply to members of the general public and individuals who represent their own interests without the services of a paid lobbyist; and

WHEREAS, Because of the vital importance of citizen participation in the development of public policy in a democratic society, it is necessary to clarify that the State's extensive registration and disclosure laws for paid lobbyists do not apply to private citizens representing their own interest;