

COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 18-04

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT CONCERNING Revisions to the Queen Anne's County Ethics Ordinance, Chapter 8 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Queen Anne's County, Maryland;

FOR THE PURPOSE of revising and updating the Queen Anne's County Ethics Ordinance, including Sections 8-11, 8-13 and 8-14 of Chapter 8 of the Code of Public Local Laws, to conform to the requirement that the Queen Anne's County Ethics Law be substantially similar to the State law; prohibiting disclosure of an individual's home address included in any financial disclosure filed after January 1, 2019; prohibiting any person subject to the County Ethics Ordinance from assisting or representing another party for compensation in a matter that is the subject of legislative action for two calendar years from the date the individual leaves County office, ceases County employment or ceases service on a County Board or Commission; prohibiting former registered lobbyists from participating in certain matters for one calendar year after termination of registration under certain circumstances; requiring disclosure by a lobbyist on statements filed on or after January 1, 2019, if the individual's spouse is a registered lobbyist, the entity that has engaged the spouse for lobbying purposes; providing procedure for failure to file annual disclosure forms and the granting of extensions and for incomplete or inadequate disclosure forms and generally revising and updating Chapter 8 of the Code of Public Local Laws.

BY AMENDING Sections 8-11, 8-13 and 8-14 of Code of Public Local Laws and ADDING a new Subsection 8-11A.(10) and (11), 8-13 L. and 8-14C.(2)(e).

SECTION I

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND that Section 8-11 A. (7) be and is hereby AMENDED and that new Subsections 8-11A.(10) and (11) be and are hereby ADDED to the Code of Public Local Laws to read as follows:

§8-11. Conflicts of Interest.

A. . . .

(7) Acting following termination of County service as a compensated representative of another person in connection with any specific matter in which he/she participated substantially as a County official or employee. ~~Until the conclusion of the next regular session that begins after an elected official leaves office, a former official may not assist or represent another party for compensation in a matter that is the subject matter of legislative action.~~

. . .

(10) A former elected official assisting or representing another party for compensation in a matter that is the subject of legislative action for two calendar years after such person leaves office. The foregoing limitation on representation does not apply to representation of a municipal corporation, State or County governmental entity.

(11) Participation by a former regulated lobbyist who is or becomes subject to regulation under this title as a public official or employee in a case, contract or other specific matter as a public official or employee for one calendar year after the termination of the registration of the former regulated lobbyist if the former regulated lobbyist previously assisted or represented another party for compensation in the matter. This prohibition does not apply to an individual who is a public official only as a member of a board and receives annual compensation that is less than 25% of the lowest annual compensation at the State of Maryland grade level 16.

SECTION II

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that Section 8-13I. of the Code of Public Local Laws be and is hereby AMENDED to read as follows:

§8-13. Financial Disclosure.

- . . .
- I. The Commission shall maintain all financial disclosure statements filed under this section for four years from the date of receipt. The statements shall be made available during normal office hours for examination and copying by the public subject to reasonable fees and administrative procedures established by the County or the Commission. If an individual examines or copies a financial disclosure statement, the Commission shall record the name and home address of the individual reviewing or copying the statement and the name of the person whose financial disclosure statement was reviewed. Upon request of the individual whose statement was reviewed, the Commission shall provide them the name and home address of the person who reviewed the statement. After January 1, 2019, the Commission may not provide public access to the portions of statements that are filed that includes an individual's home address that the individual has identified as the individual's home address.

SECTION III

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that a new Subsection 8-13 L. be and is hereby ADDED to the Code of Public Local Laws to read as follows:

§8-13. Financial Disclosure.

L. (1) Failure to file an annual financial disclosure statement by January 31 or, in the case of individuals appointed to fill a vacancy, within thirty (30) days of appointment shall be a violation of this Chapter. Upon a showing of good cause for the lateness in filing, the Ethics Commission may grant one extension of a duration considered by them as appropriate under the circumstances. Failure to file the annual financial disclosure statement within the time allowed by any such extension shall be a violation of this Chapter.

(2) Any financial disclosure statement filed which the Ethics Commission determines to be incomplete or otherwise deficient shall be given a set period, not in excess of thirty

(30) days to correct the deficiency. Failure to correct such deficiency within the time given shall be a violation of this Chapter.

(3) Any person violating the foregoing Subsections (1) and (2) shall be subject to the penalties provided in Section 8-18 of this Chapter in addition to the late fees provided in Section 8-20.

SECTION IV

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that a new Subsection 8-14C.(2)(e) be and is hereby ADDED to the Code of Public Local Laws to read as follows:

§8-14. Lobbying Disclosure.

. . .

C. Year-End Report.

. . .

(2) The report shall disclose:

. . .

(e) For a statement filed on or after January 1, 2019, if the individual's spouse is a regulated lobbyist, the entity that has engaged the spouse for lobbying purposes.

SECTION V

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Ordinance shall take effect on the forty-sixth (46th) day following its adoption.

INTRODUCED BY: Commissioner Anderson

DATE: March 27, 2018

PUBLIC HEARING HELD: May 8, 2018 @ 10:45 a.m.

VOTE: 5 Yea 0 Nay

DATE OF ADOPTION: May 22, 2018

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 7, 2018