

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1054
Judiciary

(Delegate Phillips, *et al.*)

Criminal Law - Ethics Violations, Malfeasance, Misfeasance, and Nonfeasance -
Statute of Limitations

This bill increases, from two years to three years, the statute of limitations for the prosecution of the commission of, attempted commission of, or conspiracy to commit the following misdemeanors: (1) a criminal offense under the Maryland Public Ethics Law; or (2) criminal malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office committed by an officer of the State, an officer of a State agency, an officer of a political subdivision of the State, or an officer of a bicounty or multicounty agency in the State.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, under § 5-106 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, unless otherwise specified, a prosecution for a misdemeanor must be initiated within one year after the offense was committed. As noted above, the statute of limitations for the offenses affected by the bill is two years.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission; Maryland Municipal League; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; State Ethics Commission; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2026
js/jkb

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