

SB0618/363920/1

BY: Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 618
(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike in their entirety lines 2 and 3 and substitute “**Task Force on Legislator Employment**”; strike beginning with “authorizing” in line 4 down through “Assembly” in line 11 and substitute “establishing the Task Force on Legislator Employment to study legislator employment with the State, political subdivisions of the State, and quasi-governmental entities; and generally relating to the Task Force on Legislator Employment”; and strike in their entirety lines 12 through 16, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 18, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

On pages 1 through 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 19 on page 1 through line 16 on page 3, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) There is a Task Force on Legislator Employment.

(b) (1) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(i) the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics;

(ii) the Chief Executive Officer of the Maryland Municipal League, or the Chief Executive Officer’s designee;

(iii) the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties, or the Executive Director’s designee;

(iv) the State Prosecutor, or the State Prosecutor’s designee;

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(v) the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, or the Executive Director's designee.

(vi) subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the following members appointed by the President of the Senate:

1. five members of the general public who, to the extent practicable, represent the gender, racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State;

2. one former member of the Maryland General Assembly who is registered as a Democrat; and

3. one former member of the Maryland General Assembly who is registered as a Republican; and

(vii) subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection the following members appointed by the Speaker of the House:

1. five members of the general public who, to the extent practicable, represent the gender, racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State;

2. one former member of the Maryland General Assembly who is registered as a Democrat; and

3. one former member of the Maryland General Assembly who is registered as a Republican;

(2) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of House may not appoint members under paragraph (1)(vi) and (vii) of this subsection who:

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(i) currently serve in an elected office at any level of government;
or
(ii) served in the Maryland General Assembly after January 12,
2022.

(c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Department of Legislative Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) examine current provisions of the Maryland Public Ethics Law related to State legislator employment with the State, political subdivisions of the State, and quasi-governmental entities;

(2) review current rules related to State legislator interactions with the State, political subdivisions of the State, and quasi-governmental entities on behalf of an employer;

(3) study the impact of current legislator employment rules on members of the General Assembly and the legislative process;

(Over)

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(4) research options to expand merit-based employment opportunities for legislators, including guardrails to avoid conflicts of interest;

(5) review recusal requirements for legislators who are employed by the State, political subdivisions of the State, or quasi-governmental entities; and

(6) review and make recommendations for any other matter related to modernizing or promoting accountability and efficiency in the Maryland Public Ethics Law that the Task Force considers appropriate.

(g) On or before December 1, 2026, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment, and the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.