

PUBLIC NOTICE
Bill 2024-02

The Charles County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in a hybrid format, both virtually and in person at the Charles County Government Building, 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland, to consider the Bill #2024-02, Code of Ethics. The bill amends Chapter 170 of the Charles County Code to define "Home or Principal Address," "Secondary or Designated Second Home," to prohibit disclosure of address information, and to prohibit certain activity of former lobbyists who become county officials.

Individuals or representatives of groups wishing to make oral or written comments are encouraged to attend the hearing.

In-person: Speaker sign-up will begin 30 minutes (1/2 hour) prior to the hearing at the Charles County Government Building (200 Baltimore Street, La Plata) and will end at the commencement of the hearing.

Virtually: Call (240) 776-6709, between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, to register to speak. Once registered, individuals will receive a virtual link to testify between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. after in-person speakers testify. If you are not available to speak when your name is called, we have the right to move on to the next caller. Each speaker will be allotted three (3) minutes.

Written or voicemail comments may be submitted in lieu of oral testimony, or to expand upon oral testimony, and will be accepted Friday, March 1, 2023, starting at 8 a.m. through Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 5 p.m. for:

E-Comment: use <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/government/public-comments/public-hearing-comments/bill-2024-02>

Phone message: call 301-645-0652

Mail: Commissioners of Charles County, 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Comments sent by mail must be received no later than Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

Individuals with special needs may contact Maryland Relay Service TDD 1-800-735-2258. The bill may be viewed in the Government Building Auditorium at 200 Baltimore St., La Plata, MD 20646 or online at: <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/government/charles-county-commissioners/board-of-charles-county-commissioners-meetings>. For more

information, please contact Danielle Mitchell, at 301-645-0555 or by email mitcheld@CharlesCountyMD.gov.

BY ORDER OF THE CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Reuben B. Collins, II., Esq., President

In the event the notified meeting is canceled due to inclement weather or acts of nature beyond the control of the County, all items scheduled to be discussed or heard at the meeting will be rescheduled to a later date at 6:00pm in the County Commissioners Meeting Room.

Please publish two (2) times.....issues of Friday, March 1, 2024, and Friday, March 8, 2024.

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2 **COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND**
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4 **2024 Legislative Session**

5 Bill No. 2024-

6 Chapter No. 170

7 Introduced by _____

8 Date of Introduction _____

9
10 **BILL**

11 AN ACT concerning

12 **CODE OF ETHICS**

14 FOR the purpose of

15 Adopting changes to the local Code of Ethics to remain in compliance with the public
16 ethics laws of the State of Maryland.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

19 Chapter 170 – ETHICS, CODE OF

20 Section 3: Definitions;

21 Section 5: Prohibited conduct and interests.

22 Section 6: Financial disclosure by local elected officials and candidates to be local elected
23 officials, officials and employees.

24 *Code of Charles County, Maryland*

25 *(2021 Edition)*

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28 **SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES
29 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Charles County, Maryland read as follows:**

30 Chapter 170. Ethics, Code of

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32 §170-3 Definitions.

33 In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

Asterisks *** mean intervening code language remaining unchanged

CAPITALS mean language added to the law

[Brackets] mean language deleted from the law

“HOME OR PRINCIPAL ADDRESS” MEANS THE DWELLING LOCATION AT WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL NORMALLY RESIDES FOR THE MAJORITY OF EACH WEEK AND INCLUDES THE PHYSICAL ADDRESS, MAILING ADDRESS, STREET ADDRESS, PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, PLOT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, LEGAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION, NEIGHBORHOOD NAME, AND LOT NUMBER, GPS COORDINATES, AND ANY OTHER DESCRIPTIVE PROPERTY INFORMATION THAT MAY REVEAL THE HOME ADDRESS.

“SECONDARY OR DESIGNATED SECOND HOME” MEANS A RESIDENTIAL HOME THAT IS SOLELY OWNED BY THE INDIVIDUAL, AND THAT THE INDIVIDUAL RESIDES IN AT LEAST 15 DAYS OUT OF THE YEAR OR 10% OF THE TOTAL TIME THAT THE PROPERTY IS RENTED.

§170-5 Prohibited conduct and interests.

B. Employment and financial, interest restrictions.

(1) Except as permitted by regulation of the Commission when the interest is disclosed or when the employment does not create a conflict of interest or appearance of conflict, an official or employee may not:

(a) Be employed by or have a financial interest in any entity:

(1) Subject to the authority of the official or employee or the County agency, Board, or Commission with which the official or employee is affiliated;

(2) That is negotiating or has entered a contract with the agency, board, or commission with which the official or employee is affiliated; [or]

(3) Hold any other employment relationship that would impair the impartiality or independence of judgment of the official or employee[.], OR

(4) A FORMER LOCAL LOBBYIST WHO BECOMES A COUNTY OFFICIAL, BOARD OR COMMISSION MEMBER OR EMPLOYEE MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN A CASE, CONTRACT OR OTHER SPECIFIC MATTER FOR 1 CALENDAR YEAR AFTER TERMINATEING THEIR LOCAL LOBBYING REGISTRATION IF THEY PREVIOUSLY ASSISTED ANOTHER PARTY TO THE MATTER.

Asterisks *** mean intervening code language remaining unchanged
CAPITALS mean language added to the law
[Brackets] mean language deleted from the law

§170-6 Financial disclosure by local elected officials and candidates to be local elected officials, officials and employees.

D. Candidates to be elected officials.

(4) If a candidate fails to file a statement required by this section after written notice is provided by the Charles County Board of Election Supervisors at least [20] **8** days before the last day for the withdrawal of candidacy, the candidate is deemed to have withdrawn the candidacy.

E. Public record.

(6) FOR STATEMENTS FILED AFTER JANUARY 1, 2019, THE COMMISSION OR OFFICE DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSION MAY NOT PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS TO AN INDIVIDUAL'S HOME ADDRESS, TO INCLUDE ANY SECONDARY HOME, THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS DESIGNATED AS THE INDIVIDUAL'S HOME ADDRESS.

G. Contents of Statement

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(2) Interests in Corporations and Partnerships

(b) For each interest reported under this subsection, the schedule shall include:

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[Brackets] mean language deleted from the law

[5] Any other names that the business is trading as or doing business as.
[Added 5-18-2022 by Bill No. 2022-02]]

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(3) Interests in business entities doing business with the County.

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(b) For each interest reported under this subsection, the schedule shall include:

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[5] Any other names that the business is trading as or doing business as.

[Added 5-18-2022 by Bill No. 2022-02]]

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(11) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE THE NAME OF A BUSINESS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL DISCLOSE ANY OTHER NAMES THAT THE BUSINESS IS TRADING AS OR DOING BUSINESS AS.

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1 **SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT**
2 **FORTY-FIVE (45) CALENDAR DAYS AFTER IT BECOMES LAW.**

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4 ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2024.

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Reuben B. Collins, President

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Ralph Patterson, Vice President

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Gilbert "B.J." Bowling, III

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Thomasina M. Coates, M.S.

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Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

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ATTEST:

Carol A. DeSoto
Clerk to the Commissioners

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