

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

2024 Legislative Session

Bill No. 2024-  
Chapter No. 170  
Introduced by  
Date of Introduction

BILL

AN ACT concerning

CODE OF ETHICS

FOR the purpose of

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

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Chapter 170 – ETHICS, CODE OF

Section 3: Definitions;

Section 5: Prohibited conduct and interests.

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

*Code of Charles County, Maryland*

*(2021 Edition)*

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

Chapter 170. Ethics, Code of

\* \* \* \* \*

§170-3 Definitions.

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.**

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§170-5 Prohibited conduct and interests.

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**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

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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]]

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**(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.**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reuben B. Collins, President

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Ralph Patterson, Vice President

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Gilbert “B.J.” Bowling, III

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomasina M. Coates, M.S.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol A. DeSoto  
Clerk to the Commissioners