

Prince George's County Council

Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 11/19/2014
Reference No.: CB-084-2014
Draft No.: 2
Proposer(s): County Executive
Sponsor(s): Turner
Item Title: An Act for the purpose of amending the Code of Ethics in order to conform to changes in State Ethics laws; changing certain responsibilities to the Office of Ethics and Accountability; and changing the Board of Ethics reporting period

Drafter: Raymond A. Santiago, Office of Ethics and Accountability
Resource Personnel: Robin Barnes-Shell, Office of Ethics and Accountability

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented:	9/23/2014	Executive Action:	12/4/2014 S
Committee Referral:	9/23/2014 - PSFM	Effective Date:	1/20/2015

Committee Action: 10/16/2014 - FAV(A)

Date Introduced: 10/21/2014
Public Hearing: 11/19/2014 - 10:00 AM

Council Action (1) 11/19/2014 - ENACTED
Council Votes: WC:A, DLD:A, MRF:A, AH:A, ML:A, EO:A, OP:A, IT:A, KT:A
Pass/Fail: P
Remarks:

AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

02-292, 02-293, 02-294, 02-295

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety and Fiscal Management

Date 10/16/2014

REPORT: Committee Vote: Favorable as Amended 4-0 (In Favor: Council Members Toles, Davis, Harrison, and Turner)

This bill will amend the County Code by transferring certain responsibilities from the County Attorney to the Office of Ethics and Accountability to assist the Board of Ethics and change the Board of Ethics annual period deadline from January 30th to August 30th. Changing the reporting date will allow the Board of Ethics to provide more complete information to both the executive and legislative branches. The bill also requires any person who engages in lobbying to file and certify, under oath or affirmation a lobbying registration with the Board of Ethics.

The Office of Law has reviewed this bill and finds it to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

The Legislation was amended as follows:

(1) On page 1 line 20 delete the brackets [] before “County” and after “Attorney” and insert “or” after “Attorney”.

The enactment of CB-84-2014 will not have an adverse fiscal impact on the County.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

This legislation will amend the County’s Code of Ethics to reflect changes made by the Maryland General Assembly regarding the lobbying registration process, and will amend the Code to change the lobbyist and financial disclosure statement reporting date. Changing the reporting date would allow the Board of Ethics to provide more complete information to both the executive and legislative branches. This legislation would also replace the Office of Law with the Office of Ethics and Accountability (OEA) in the Code of Ethics. In accordance with CB-63-2012, the OEA will provide administrative support to the Board.

The proposed amendments to the Code of Ethics embodied in this legislation are pending approval by the State Ethics Commission.

CODE INDEX TOPICS:

INCLUSION FILES:
