

# HOUSE BILL 834

G2, L2

EMERGENCY BILL

4lr0474

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By: **Delegates Fisher and T. Morgan**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Calvert County – Ethics – Consequences of Conflict of Interest Violations**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that the conflict of interest provisions enacted by Calvert  
4 County include certain provisions relating to judicial relief for certain violations of  
5 the county’s conflict of interest provisions; requiring Calvert County to enact a law  
6 or regulation to require removal of a county elected official from office for violations  
7 of certain conflict of interest provisions; and generally relating to conflict of interest  
8 provisions in Calvert County.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – General Provisions  
11 Section 5–807(a) and 5–902  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – General Provisions  
16 Section 5–811.1  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
20 Article – Local Government  
21 Section 12–107  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2013 Volume and 2023 Supplement)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
25 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

26 **Article – General Provisions**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 5-807.

2 (a) Subject to § 5-209 of this title, each county and each municipal corporation  
3 shall enact provisions to govern the public ethics of local officials relating to:

4 (1) conflicts of interest;

5 (2) financial disclosure; and

6 (3) lobbying.

7 **5-811.1.**

8 (A) **THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN CALVERT COUNTY.**

9 (B) **THE COUNTY'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROVISIONS REQUIRED UNDER**  
10 **§ 5-807(A)(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL INCLUDE A LAW OR REGULATION THAT IS**  
11 **EQUIVALENT TO OR EXCEEDS THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 5-902 OF THIS TITLE.**

12 5-902.

13 (a) The court may compel compliance with the Ethics Commission's order by:

14 (1) issuing an order to cease and desist from the violation; or

15 (2) granting other injunctive relief.

16 (b) (1) The court may also:

17 (i) impose a fine:

18 1. not exceeding \$5,000 for a violation of this title;

19 2. with each day that the violation occurs being a separate  
20 offense; and

21 3. which shall be paid to the State Treasurer and deposited  
22 in the General Fund; or

23 (ii) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, void an  
24 official act of an official or employee if:

25 1. the official or employee had a conflict of interest that is  
26 prohibited by this title;



1 **ARTICLE RELATING TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.**

2           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
3 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has  
4 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to  
5 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is  
6 enacted.