

Public Ethics and Financial Disclosure

O-1-18

Staff Report

Effective October 1, 2017, the General Assembly adopted HB 1386 after considering multiple statewide and local bills to establish liquor board reform and improved accountability. House Bill 1386 applies the requirements of the Maryland Public Ethics Law to members and employees of local boards of license commissioners and local liquor control boards by designating that these individuals are “public officials” subject to the Maryland Public Ethics Law. The bill does not apply in counties in which the county councils or board of county commissioners sit as a board of license commissioners or liquor control board; namely Dorchester, Howard, and Kent counties.

This legislation also includes State required updates to the City Ethics Code pursuant to the passage of HB 879, which amendments will become effective January 1, 2019. The Ethics Commission met on November 16, 2017 and approved these changes to the Ethics Code.