

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 291 entitled “An act relating to travel disclosures for legislators and
4 certain executive officers” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 1201 is amended to read:

8 § 1201. DEFINITIONS

9 As used in this chapter:

10 * * *

11 (10) “Immediate family” means an individual’s spouse, domestic
12 partner, or civil union partner; child or foster child; sibling; parent; or such
13 relations by marriage or by civil union or domestic partnership; or an
14 individual claimed as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

15 * * *

16 (16) “Staff” means any individual who supports a member of the
17 General Assembly or an executive officer in the member’s or executive
18 officer’s official capacity and acts at the direction of the member or executive
19 officer, whether paid or unpaid or receiving academic credit.

20 (17) “State officer” means the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
21 Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts, or Attorney General.

1 ~~(17)~~(18) “Unethical conduct” means any conduct of a public servant in
2 violation of the Code of Ethics, as provided for in this chapter.

3 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 1214 is added to read:

4 § 1214. TRAVEL DISCLOSURES

5 (a) Applicability.

6 (1) A member of the General Assembly or an executive officer shall file
7 with the State Ethics Commission, or as otherwise directed by law, a disclosure
8 detailing costs and associated information for any travel made in the course of
9 the member’s or executive officer’s official capacity or that would not have
10 likely occurred but for the member’s or executive officer’s status of occupying
11 the member’s or executive officer’s office.

12 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, a member or an
13 executive officer is not required to file a disclosure if the travel is:

14 (A) fully paid by the member or executive officer, this State, or the
15 federal government;

16 (B) of de minimis value, meaning having a value of \$50.00 or less
17 per source per occasion, provided that the aggregate market value of the
18 individual item received from any one source shall not exceed \$150.00 in a
19 calendar year; or

20 (C)(i) undergone by an executive officer serving under the Governor;
21 and

1 (ii) required to be approved, reported, and disclosed pursuant rule
2 or bulletin as adopted by the Governor, provided that the rule or bulletin
3 otherwise conforms to the requirements of this section and that copies of all
4 disclosures are posted on the Agency of Administration's website.

5 (b) Contents and design of disclosure.

6 (1) A member of the General Assembly or an executive officer shall
7 disclose, in writing:

8 (A) the purpose of the travel;

9 (B) whether the travel was purely in the member's or executive
10 officer's official capacity or made for another purpose;

11 (C) the itinerary of travel, including dates of travel and any stopover
12 or intentional visit to another location prior to the destination of travel;

13 (D)(i) with reasonable particularity, any expense made or
14 reimbursement received for all costs associated with transportation to and from
15 any destination, and food, refreshments, tickets and admissions, entertainment,
16 lodging, and anything else of value, whether for cost or in kind, associated
17 with the travel; and

18 (ii) notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (i) of this
19 subdivision (D), a member or an executive officer is not required to disclose
20 any expenses or reimbursements for any travel fully paid by the member or
21 executive officer, this State, or the federal government;

1 (E) the date of any expense or reimbursement; and

2 (F) if certain costs associated with the travel were in part paid for or
3 reimbursed by any other source than the member or executive officer or this
4 State, indicate what amount was paid for or reimbursed by:

5 (i) the State;

6 (ii) the member's or executive officer's own person; or

7 (iii) any other sources, including associations, lobbyists, political
8 committees and parties, individuals, other countries, states, and territories.

9 (2) A member or an executive officer shall also make the same
10 disclosures described in subdivision (1) of this subsection for any staff and
11 immediate family accompanying the member or executive officer on the travel.
12 These disclosures shall include the name and title of any staff and only the
13 nature of the relationship for any immediate family.

14 (3) A member or an executive officer shall attest to the veracity and
15 completeness of the disclosed information and sign and date the disclosure.

16 (4)(i) Disclosure forms shall, where appropriate, be designed by the
17 State Ethics Commission.

18 (ii) Agency of Administration may design its own disclosure forms
19 for executive officers serving under the Governor, provided these forms
20 conform to the requirements of this subsection.

1 (c) Filing date. A member of the General Assembly or an executive officer
2 shall file the disclosure within 30 calendar days following the conclusion of
3 travel.

4 (d) Supplemental disclosure. A member of the General Assembly or an
5 executive officer shall file with the State Ethics Commission, or as otherwise
6 directed by law, a supplemental disclosure in accordance with section 1203 of
7 this title if a particular matter involving the payer or orchestrator of any
8 expense or reimbursement detailed in subsection (b) of this section comes
9 before the member or executive officer during the six months following such
10 acceptance or reimbursement.

11 Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 1211 is amended to read:

12 § 1211. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS; ANNUAL DISCLOSURE

13 (a) Annually, each Executive officer and county officer shall file with the
14 State Ethics Commission a disclosure form that contains the following
15 information in regard to the previous 12 months:

16 (1) each source, but not amount, of personal income of the officer and of
17 the officer's spouse or domestic partner, and of the officer together with the
18 officer's spouse or domestic partner, that totals more than \$5,000.00,
19 including:

20 (A) the officer's employer or business name and address; and

21 (B) if self-employed, a description of the nature of the self-
22 employment, including the names of any clients whose principal business

activities are regulated by or that have a contract with any municipal or State office, department, or agency, provided that this information is known to the ~~candidate~~ officer or the ~~candidate's~~ officer's domestic partner and that the disclosed information is not confidential information;

(2) any board, commission, or other entity that is regulated by law on which the officer served and the officer's position on that entity;

* * *

(6) a generalized description, but not amount, to the best of the ~~candidate's~~ officer's knowledge, of the following investments held by a ~~candidate~~ an officer or the ~~candidate's~~ officer's spouse or domestic partner:

(A) individual stock holdings valued at \$25,000.00 or more, which a ~~candidate~~ an officer exercises control over or has the ability to buy or sell, which shall be listed individually;

(B) interests in investment funds valued at \$25,000.00 or more that a ~~candidate~~ an officer or the ~~candidate's~~ officer's spouse or domestic partner has the ability to exercise control over the composition of assets within a fund, which shall be listed individually;

* * *

(F) the details of any loan valued at \$10,000.00 or more, made to the ~~candidate~~ officer or the ~~candidate's~~ officer's spouse that is not a commercially reasonable loan made in the ordinary course of business; and

(7) the full name of the ~~candidate's~~ officer's spouse or domestic partner.

* * *

Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 1221 is amended to read:

§ 1221. STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

* * *

(b) Membership.

(1) The Commission shall be composed of the following seven members:

(A) one member, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

(B) one member, appointed by the League of Women Voters of Vermont, who shall be a member of the League;

(C) one member, appointed by the Board of Directors of the Vermont Society of Certified Public Accountants, who shall be a member of the Society;

(D) one member, appointed by the ~~Board of Managers of the Vermont Bar Association, who shall be a member of the Association~~
Governor;

(E) one member, appointed by the Board of Directors of the SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) Vermont State Council, who shall be a member of the Council;

(F) one member, who shall be a former municipal officer, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

1 (G) one member, who shall be a former municipal officer, appointed
2 by the Senate Committee on Committees.

3 * * *

4 (e) Meetings.

5 (1) Meetings of the Commission:

6 ~~(1)~~(A) shall be held at least quarterly for the purpose of the Executive
7 Director updating the Commission on the Executive Director's work;

8 ~~(2)~~(B) may be called by the Chair and shall be called upon the
9 request of any other two Commission members; and

10 ~~(3)~~(C) shall be conducted in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 310 et seq.

11 (2) A majority of the currently appointed members of the Commission
12 shall constitute a quorum. Once a quorum has been established, the vote of a
13 majority of the members present at the time of the vote shall be an act of the
14 Commission.

15 * * *

16 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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4 (Committee vote: _____)

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6

7

Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE