

1 S.37

2 Introduced by Senators Sirotkin and Doyle

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Legislature; registration of lobbyists; disclosure of conflicts of interest  
6 and identification; pilot project; livestream committee hearings

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that  
8 lobbyists disclose conflicts of interest, to encourage lobbyists to wear  
9 identification, and to create a pilot project to livestream the proceedings of two  
10 committees.

11 An act relating to requiring that lobbyists disclose conflicts of interest, to  
12 encouraging lobbyists to wear identification, and to creating a pilot project  
13 to livestream the proceedings of two committees

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. § 266 is amended to read

16 § 266. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

17 It shall be prohibited conduct:

18 (1) to employ a lobbyist or lobbying firm, or accept employment as a  
19 lobbyist or lobbying firm, for compensation that is dependent on a  
20 contingency;

1           (2) for a legislator or administrative official to solicit a gift, other than a  
2 political contribution, from a registered employer or registered lobbyist or a  
3 lobbying firm engaged by an employer, except that charitable contributions for  
4 nonprofit organizations qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal  
5 Internal Revenue Code may be solicited from registered employers and  
6 registered lobbyists or lobbying firms engaged by an employer;

7           (3) when the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly is in session, until  
8 adjournment sine die, for a legislator or administrative official to solicit a  
9 political campaign contribution as defined in 17 V.S.A. § 2801 from a  
10 registered lobbyist or a lobbying firm engaged by an employer or registered  
11 employer or for a registered lobbyist or registered employer or a lobbying firm  
12 engaged by an employer to make or promise a political campaign contribution  
13 to any member of the ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly or any member's  
14 campaign committee;

15           (4) for a lobbyist or lobbying firm to engage in lobbying without  
16 disclosing to a client or employer any potential conflict of interest that may  
17 exist with another client or employer of the lobbyist or lobbying firm;

18           (5) for a lobbyist to appear in the State House without wearing a name  
19 tag or another form of identification that is clearly visible and that states:

20           (A) the lobbyist's name; and

1           (B) the lobbyist's client or employer, or in cases where the lobbyist  
2           represents more than one client or employer, the name of the lobbyist's firm.

3           Sec. 2. LOBBYIST IDENTIFICATION

4           (a) When the General Assembly is in session, all lobbyists as defined in  
5           2 V.S.A. § 261 are encouraged to wear a name tag or another form of  
6           identification that is clearly visible and that states:

7                   (1) the lobbyist's name; and

8                   (2) the lobbyist's client or employer, or in cases where the lobbyist  
9           represents more than one client or employer, the name of the lobbyist's firm.

10           (b) The Office of Legislative Council shall report on January 15, 2017, on  
11           the rate of compliance by lobbyists with this section.

12           Sec. 3. PILOT PROJECT TO LIVESTREAM COMMITTEE  
13                   PROCEEDINGS

14           The Office of Legislative Council shall facilitate and coordinate a pilot  
15           project with a for-profit or nonprofit entity to assist and assess the  
16           effectiveness and cost of audio livestreaming committee hearings. All public  
17           hearings and proceedings held during 2016 of two standing committees, one  
18           from each chamber, shall be audio livestreamed.

1       Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

2           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015, except that Sec. 1(5) (lobbyist  
3           identification) shall take effect on July 1, 2017, if the rate of compliance  
4           reported pursuant to Sec. 2 is less than 80 percent.