

1 H.752

2 Introduced by Representative Hubert of Milton

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Municipal government; lobbying; registration

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require a
7 municipality to register as a lobbyist and file lobbying reports if the entity
8 solicits the voters of the municipality in an attempt to influence their votes.

9 An act relating to requiring municipal entities to register and report as
10 lobbyists

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

12 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. chapter 33, subchapter 14 is added to read:

13 Subchapter 14. Municipal Lobbying

14 § 1145. MUNICIPAL LOBBYING; REGISTRATION AND REPORTS

15 (a) A municipality that engages in lobbying shall register as a lobbyist and
16 file reports with the Secretary of State as follows:

17 (1) on or before April 25, for the preceding period beginning on
18 January 1 and ending with March 31;

19 (2) on or before July 25, for the preceding period beginning on April 1
20 and ending with June 30; and

1 (3) on or before January 25, for the preceding period beginning on
2 July 1 and ending with December 31.

3 (b) A municipality shall disclose in each report the following information:

4 (1) lobbying expenditures made for advertising, including television,
5 radio, print, and electronic media, including the amount of each expenditure, to
6 whom it was paid, and for what purpose;

7 (2) expenses incurred for telemarketing, polling, or similar activities if
8 the activities are intended, designed, or calculated, directly or indirectly, to
9 influence action by the municipality's voters, including the amount of each
10 expense, to whom it was paid, and for what purpose;

11 (3) the total amount of any other lobbying expenditures; and

12 (4) the name of any municipal officer or employee who was involved in
13 the lobbying.

14 (c) As used in this section, "lobbying" means:

15 (1) communicating orally or in writing with any voter of the
16 municipality for the purpose of influencing the vote of the voter;

17 (2) soliciting others to influence the vote of a municipal voter;

18 (3) attempting to obtain the goodwill of a municipal voter by
19 communications or activities with that voter intended ultimately to influence
20 his or her vote; or

1 (4) activities sponsored by the municipality on behalf of or for the
2 benefit of any municipal voter, if a principal purpose of the activity is to enable
3 the voter to communicate orally with one or more other municipal voters for
4 the purpose of influencing their votes.

5 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.