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MEANS

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Rep. Donna Sweaney, Chair, House Committee on Government Operations

From: Rep. Janet Ancel, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
Rep. Carolyn Branagan, Vice-Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means

Date: January 16, 2014

Subject: Review of Administration's Proposed FY 2015 Fee Bill

The House Ways and Means Committee has begun work on the Administration's proposed FY 2015 Fee Bill and would like the Committee on Government Operations to review Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 19.

Sections 11-13 relate to fees for the registration of individual lobbyists and lobbying firms, fees for filing late registrations, as well fees for the filing of late disclosures to be made by lobbyists, lobbying firms, or employers who engage with lobbyists. The fee increases are to more closely align fees in Vermont to those in other States and to create a new lobbyist disclosure database.

Sections 14 and 16-19 pertain to fees falling within the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation. The fee increases are to keep revenues and expenditures in balance for each professional board. The following professional boards are seeking fee changes: Chiropractic, Funeral Directors, Professional Nursing, Nursing Assistants and Optometry.

It would be helpful if you could respond with any recommendations by the end of the day on January 22nd. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

\* \* \* Secretary of State \* \* \*  
\* \* \* Elections \* \* \*

Sec. 11. 2 V.S.A. § 263 is amended to read:

§ 263. REGISTRATION OF LOBBYISTS AND EMPLOYERS; FEES  
\* \* \*

(f) Every employer and every lobbyist shall pay an initial registration fee of ~~\$25.00~~ \$50.00.

(g) An employer shall pay a fee of ~~\$5.00~~ \$10.00 for each lobbyist engaged by the employer. A lobbyist shall pay a fee of ~~\$5.00~~ \$10.00 for each employer represented.

(h) A person who fails to file on time a statement required by this section shall pay a late registration fee of \$25.00 ~~plus \$10.00~~ for each day the statement is late, not to exceed ~~\$175.00~~ \$350.00.

\* \* \*

Sec. 12. 2 V.S.A. § 264 is amended to read:

§ 264. REPORTS OF EXPENDITURES, COMPENSATION, AND GIFTS; EMPLOYERS; LOBBYISTS.

\* \* \*

(i) A lobbyist, lobbying firm, or employer who fails to file a disclosure report on time shall pay a late reporting fee of \$25.00 ~~plus \$10.00~~ for each day the disclosure report is late, not to exceed ~~\$175.00~~ \$350.00.

\* \* \*

Sec. 13. 2 V.S.A. § 264b is amended to read:

§ 264b. LOBBYING FIRM LISTINGS; REPORTS OF EXPENDITURES, COMPENSATION, AND GIFTS; LOBBYING FIRMS.

\* \* \*

(a) On forms provided by the ~~secretary of state~~ Secretary of State, every lobbying firm shall file a listing of all lobbyists who are employed by, subcontracted by, members of, or affiliated with the lobbying firm within 48 hours of any such lobbyists commencing lobbying activities. The lobbying firm shall file an updated listing within 48 hours of any changes to the listing. Every lobbying firm shall pay an initial listing fee of \$100.00.

\* \* \* Office of Professional Regulation \* \* \*

\* \* \* Chiropractic \* \* \*

Sec. 14. 26 V.S.A. § 535 is amended to read:

§ 535. FEES

Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

(1) Chiropractors

(A) Application \$ 200.00

(B) Biennial renewal ~~\$ 365.00~~ \$ 265.00

(C) Initial competency endorsement under section 525 of this title \$ 70.00

(D) Biennial renewal of competency endorsement under section 525 of this title \$ 70.00

(E) Evaluation \$ 125.00

(2) Registration of intern \$ 50.00

\* \* \* Funeral Directors \* \* \*

Sec. 16. 26 V.S.A. § 1256 is amended to read:

§ 1256. RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION OR LICENSE

(a)(1) One month before renewal is required, the ~~board~~ Board or the ~~office of professional regulation~~ Office of Professional Regulation shall notify, by mail, every licensee of the date on which his or her or its license will expire.

(2) Biennially, every licensee shall renew his or her or its registration or license by paying the required fee.

(b) Upon request of the ~~board of health~~ Board of Health or a person authorized to issue burial or removal permits, a licensee shall show proof of current licensure.

(c) If a licensee fails to pay the renewal fee by the required date, the license shall lapse. Thereafter, the license may be reinstated only upon application to the ~~board~~ Board or the ~~office of professional regulation~~ Office of Professional Regulation and upon payment of the renewal fee and a reinstatement fee.

(d) Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

(1) Application for license \$ 70.00

(2) Biennial renewal of license

(A) Funeral director ~~\$ 300.00~~ \$ 450.00

(B) Embalmer ~~\$ 300.00~~ \$ 450.00

(C) Funeral establishment ~~\$ 540.00~~ \$ 900.00

(D) Crematory establishment ~~\$ 540.00~~ \$ 900.00

(E) Removal personnel ~~\$ 85.00~~ \$ 125.00

(e) In addition to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, an applicant for renewal as a funeral director or embalmer shall have satisfactorily completed continuing education as required by the ~~board~~ Board. For purposes of this subsection, the ~~board~~ Board shall require, by rule, not less than six nor more than ten hours of approved continuing education as a condition of renewal and may require up to three hours of continuing education for removal personnel in the subject area of universal precautions and infectious diseases.

\* \* \* Nursing \* \* \*

\* \* \* Registered and Licensed Practical Nursing \* \* \*

Sec. 17. 26 V.S.A. § 1577 is amended to read:

§ 1577. FEES

Applicants and persons regulated under this subchapter shall pay the following fees:

(1) Application	\$ 60.00
(2) Registered nurse application by endorsement	\$ 150.00
(3) Biennial renewal	<del>\$ 95.00</del> <u>\$ 140.00</u>
(4) Limited temporary license	\$ 25.00
(5) Initial endorsement of advanced practice registered nurses	\$ 75.00
(6) Biennial renewal of advanced practice registered nurses	<del>\$ 50.00</del> <u>\$ 75.00</u>

\* \* \* Nursing Assistants \* \* \*

Sec. 18. 26 V.S.A. § 1599 is amended to read:

§ 1599. FEES

Applicants and persons regulated under this subchapter shall pay the following fees:

(1) Application	\$20.00
(2) Biennial renewal	<del>\$30.00</del> <u>\$ 45.00</u>

\* \* \* Optometry \* \* \*

Sec. 19. 26 V.S.A. § 1718 is amended to read:

§ 1718. FEES

Applicants and persons regulated under this chapter shall pay the following fees:

(1) Application	\$225.00
(2) Biennial renewal	<del>\$525.00</del> <u>\$ 425.00</u>