

1 S.132

2 Introduced by Senators Campion, Ayer, Lyons, Pearson, and Sirotkin

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Legislative and executive; registration of lobbyists; disclosures;

6 lobbyist employers; membership organizations

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require  
8 lobbyist employers that are membership organizations to disclose the number  
9 of their members and the names and addresses of those members that are not  
10 natural persons.

11 An act relating to the disclosure of lobbyist employer membership

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

13 Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. § 263 is amended to read:

14 § 263. REGISTRATION OF LOBBYISTS AND EMPLOYERS; FEES

15 (a) On forms provided by the Secretary of State, every lobbyist shall  
16 register with the Secretary of State before, or within 48 hours of, commencing  
17 lobbying activities. A lobbyist shall file a separate registration statement for  
18 each of the lobbyist's employers.

19 (b) On forms provided by the Secretary of State, every employer shall  
20 register with the Secretary of State before, or within 48 hours of, engaging a

1 lobbyist. If an employer engages an additional lobbyist, the employer shall file  
2 a supplemental registration statement.

3 (c) A registration statement filed by a lobbyist shall be signed by the  
4 lobbyist and shall contain the following information:

5 (1) The name, mailing address, and telephone number of the lobbyist.

6 (2) The name of the employer and date of employment for the biennium.

7 (3) A description of the matters for which lobbying has been engaged by  
8 the employer.

9 (4) If a lobbyist is compensated, in whole or in part, by an employer for  
10 the purpose of lobbying on behalf of another person or group or coalition, the  
11 lobbyist shall provide the name of the employer, the name of the person,  
12 group, or coalition on whose behalf he or she lobbies, and a description of the  
13 matters for which lobbying has been engaged by the employer.

14 (5) A current passport-type photograph of the lobbyist.

15 (6) All subject areas for which lobbying is performed.

16 (d) A registration statement filed by an employer shall be signed by the  
17 employer and shall contain the following information:

18 (1) the name of the employer;

19 (2) the trade name, if any, of the employer;

20 (3) the mailing address and the telephone number of the employer;

21 (4) the contact person for the employer;

1           (5) the name and mailing address of each lobbyist engaged by the  
2 employer and date of employment or contract for the biennium; and

3           (6) if the employer is a group or coalition of members, including a  
4 business, trade, or consumer interest association:

5                 (A) the number of its members; and

6                 (B) the name and business address of any member that is not an  
7 individual.

8           (e) A registration shall be valid from the date of filing to December 31 of  
9 the second year of a biennium, except that a registration may be made in  
10 December of an even-numbered year for the ensuing biennium.

11           (f) Every employer and every lobbyist shall pay an initial registration fee of  
12 \$60.00.

13           (g) An employer shall pay a fee of \$15.00 for each lobbyist engaged by the  
14 employer. A lobbyist shall pay a fee of \$15.00 for each employer represented.

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

18           (i) A registration shall be terminated by the Secretary of State upon written  
19 notification by the employer or lobbyist that lobbying has ceased by or on  
20 behalf of the employer or lobbyist and that the registrant has filed a final  
21 disclosure report under section 264 of this title.

1           (j)(1) The Secretary of State shall prepare a list of names and addresses of  
2 lobbyists and their employers and the list shall be published at the end of the  
3 second legislative week of each regular or adjourned session. Supplemental  
4 lists shall be published monthly during the remainder of the legislative session.

5           (2) On or before March 15 of the first year of each legislative biennium,  
6 the Secretary of State shall publish no fewer than 500 booklets containing an  
7 alphabetical listing of all registered lobbyists, including, at a minimum, a  
8 current passport-type photograph of the lobbyist, the lobbyist's business  
9 address, telephone, and fax numbers, a list of the lobbyist's clients, and a  
10 subject matter index.

11       Sec. 2. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION; LOBBYIST EMPLOYERS;  
12                               REQUIREMENT TO UPDATE REGISTRATION

13           On the effective date of this act, each lobbyist employer that is registered  
14 with the Secretary of State and meets the description set forth in  
15 2 V.S.A. § 263(d)(6) in Sec. 1 of this act shall update its registration on or  
16 before September 15, 2017 in accordance with that subdivision.

17       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

18           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.