



## **Achieving Vermont Ethics Standards and Accountability in Government**

Accountability: “the quality or state of being accountable, especially, an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions.”

*Merriam-Webster*

December 30, 2013

Dear Fellow Vermonters:

You deserve the highest level of ethical conduct from government officials, and we should expect nothing less. Yet, Vermont is one of the only states without a comprehensive code of ethics governing the conduct of public officials.

In our advocacy paper, [Achieving Accountability: Transforming State Government into a Modern, Transparent 21<sup>st</sup> Century System](#), Campaign for Vermont (CFV) laid out a detailed plan for transforming state government into a truly transparent organization capable of solving Vermont's most pressing challenges. Transparency and ethics are inextricably linked; ethics is an essential first step on the road to comprehensive transparency in state government.

To be sure, most of Vermont's elected officials are honorable and ethical, but some might fall short. However, without clear lines of what is and what is not ethical, the mere perception of waste, fraud, abuse or corruption undermines confidence in government and public servants.

Vermont affords its residents the pleasure of knowing their neighbors. Our state is full of small towns where we all know just about everyone. However, we should not mistake seeing elected officials at a meeting or bumping into them at a gas station, grocery store or high school athletic event as transparency or accountability. This is accessibility, not transparency.

Current laws address criminal activity, but not ethics and professional conduct in each branch – and at each level – of state government. That's why Vermont ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in government integrity laws according to the Better Government Association<sup>1</sup>. And, as a practical matter, there is no process to which everyday Vermonters can turn if a government officials' behavior is ethically questionable. We can do better.

We have proudly worked with David Coates, Allen Gilbert and Bill Schubart on this project after spending the summer researching ethics laws from all across the country. Mr. Coates has kept Speaker Shap Smith apprised of our research. Campaign for Vermont interns Ben Kinsley and Kris Jolin logged many hours conducting research, preparing charts and graphs, and [preparing an analysis of this work](#) for your reference. We are especially pleased with Ben Kinsley's creativity in producing a video that helps to set the stage for this issue and summarizes our recommendations.

As Campaign for Vermont moves forward, we are prepared to hold accountable politicians and insiders who will give lip service to the enactment of an ethics law but take no conclusive action; try to explain why ethics laws are unnecessary; or try to water them down.

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<sup>1</sup> The Better Government Association is a watchdog group promoting reform through investigative journalism, civic engagement, and advocacy: [http://www.bettergov.org/action\\_policy/bgaalper\\_services\\_integrity\\_index\\_2013.aspx](http://www.bettergov.org/action_policy/bgaalper_services_integrity_index_2013.aspx)

Vermont is a forward-thinking state that likes to be on the leading edge. Our state is full of hard-working, honest people. It is not too much to ask to have a system of checks and balances for our elected leaders. A transparent and accountable government is necessary and achievable.

I hope you'll join Campaign for Vermont in advocating for these, and other, necessary reforms this legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'B' followed by a horizontal line and a curved flourish underneath.

Bruce Lisman  
Co-Founder



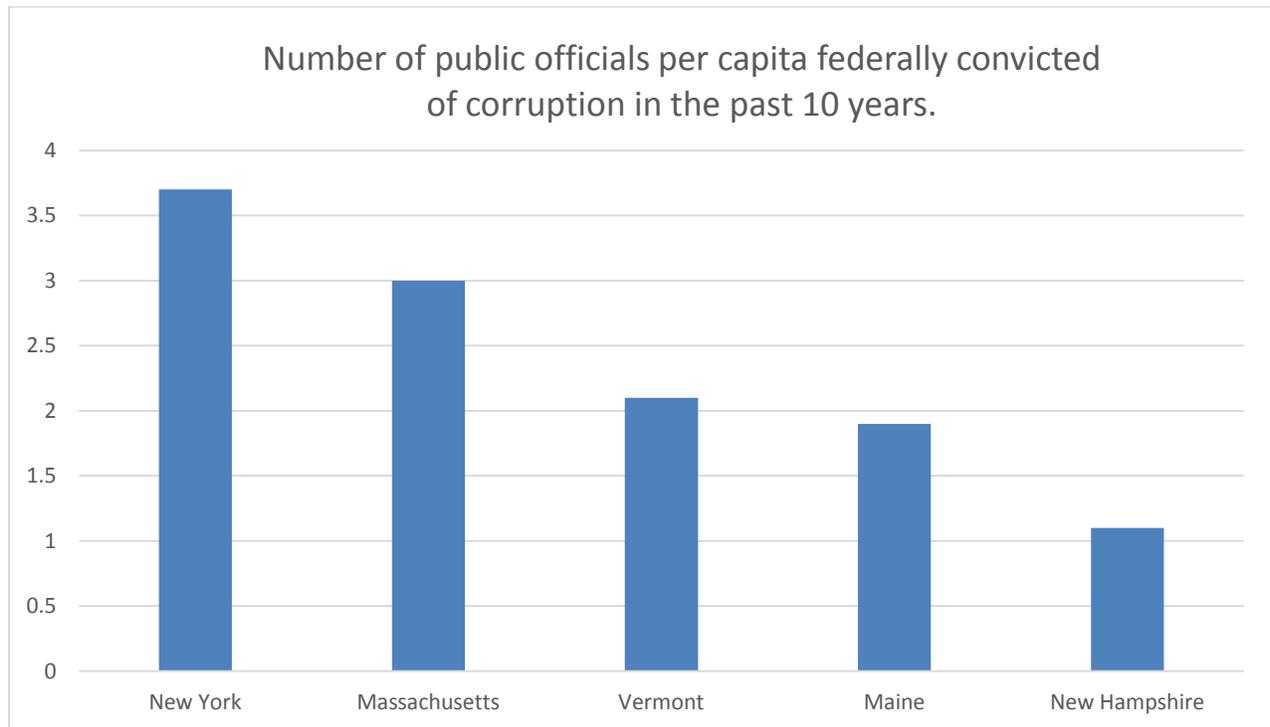
### INTRODUCTION: THE NEED FOR CHANGE

Vermonters trust their elected officials. Why wouldn't we? Personal relationships and frequent encounters with them – whether at town meetings or the local store – give us unrivaled access to government officials. Vermonters relate to our elected officials and public servants on a personal level, allowing us to believe accessibility and personal contact keep our office holders accountable.

This access and personal contact has many advantages. But, it also has one major disadvantage.

Campaign for Vermont's detailed analysis of fraud and corruption in our state and throughout the country reveals an alarming fact: Vermont has mistaken accessibility for transparency.

Politicians and civil servants have exploited the lack of structure – and Vermont's public trust – for their own personal gain in greater proportion than in any other state in the country. That is why Campaign for Vermont is calling on the Legislature to pass meaningful and enforceable ethics laws during the 2014 legislative session.



Source: New York Times - <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/14/weekinreview/14marsh.html? r=1&>

So, how big is the problem? The short answer is: it's big. Two separate ethics watchdog groups have given Vermont negative rankings in key areas.

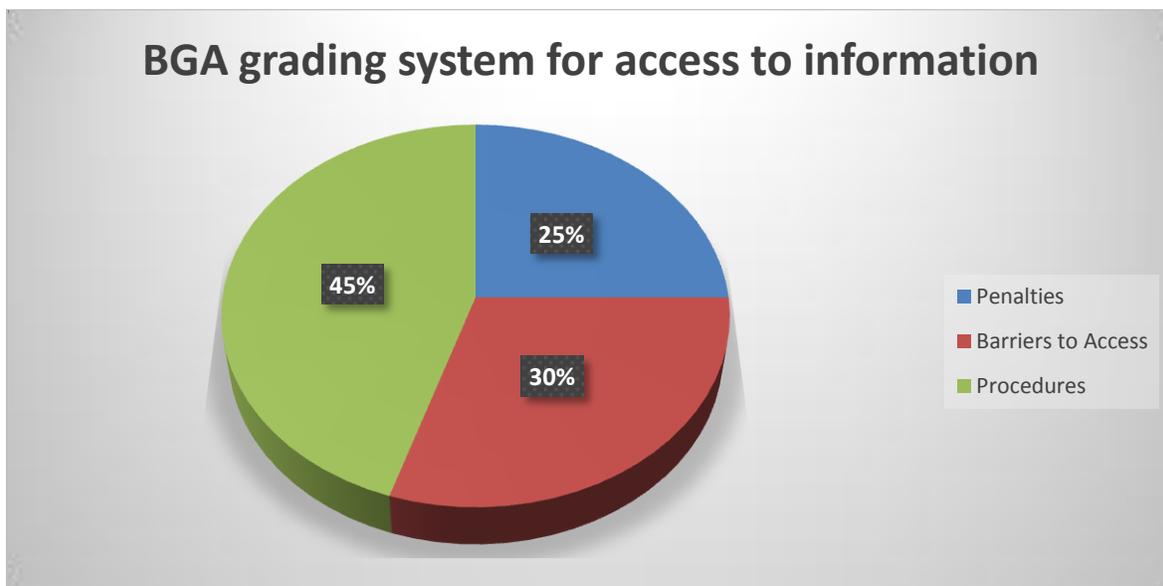
- The [Better Government Association](#) (BGA) – an advocacy group that “promotes reform through investigative journalism, civic engagement, and advocacy” – gave Vermont an “F” for conflict of interest laws.
- The [State Integrity Investigation](#) (SII) – a joint project between the Center for Public Integrity, Global Integrity, and Public Radio International – gave Vermont an “F” for ethics enforcement agencies.

These are the problem areas:

- Public Access to Information (Grade of D+ from SII and C- from BGA)
- Executive Accountability (Grade of D- from SII)
- Legislative Accountability (Grade of F from SII)
- Civil Service Management (Grade of D+ from SII)
- Ethics Enforcement Agencies (Grade of F from SII)
- Open Meetings (Grade of F by BGA)
- Conflict of Interest (Grade of F by BGA)

## PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Vermont received a D+ from SII in regards to public access to information for a few reasons. Vermonters have the right – in most cases – to request access to information, but that process is often restrictive and time consuming. SII found that in real-world situations Vermonters had a relatively difficult time gaining access to information. To complicate things further, there is no monitoring or review system in place for granting access to information and the state often finds reasons to deny access. The BGA gave Vermont 71% (C-) for access to information using three main categories to measure (see graph below).



Source: BGA Integrity Index - [http://www.bettergov.org/action\\_policy/bgaalper\\_services\\_integrity\\_index\\_2013.aspx](http://www.bettergov.org/action_policy/bgaalper_services_integrity_index_2013.aspx)

States like Arkansas were given higher grades for access to information because they had a response time of five days or less and a public body to oversee access to information. Many states also have an appeals process to ensure equitable access to information.

## **EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AND CIVIL SERVICE ACCOUNTABILITY**

The SII gave Vermont ratings of D- and F for executive and legislative accountability respectively. Civil service management received a D+. These rankings can be generally broken up into four categories: Lack of asset disclosure laws, lack of revolving door regulation, lack of nepotism and patronage laws and other conflict of interest measures.

Financial disclosure would require public officials and civil servants to disclose earnings and financial holdings. Vermont is one of three states<sup>2</sup> where public officials do not have to disclose financial interests. Nearly all states use reporting requirements, independent auditing, and public access to disclosure forms as a means to keep government officials honest and open with their constituents.

Revolving door regulations prohibit public officials and civil servants from leaving office to become a lobbyist or consultant for government contracts. Most states put at least a one year moratorium on lobbying or consulting for parties to a state contract. Thirty-four states have specific revolving door policies.<sup>3</sup> Vermont has no laws regulating this activity.

Nepotism and patronage laws deal with favoritism by public officials and civil servants towards friends or family when dealing with employees or government contracts. Most states prohibit public officials from making decisions that would help or hinder family or friends. Twenty-nine states, excluding Vermont, have some kind of prohibition on nepotism.<sup>4</sup>

BGA ranked Vermont 50<sup>th</sup> for conflict of interest laws. This ranking is based on disclosure requirements for public officials. Vermont has no disclosure requirements, and consequently received a grade of 0%. BGA looks at four specific areas for financial disclosure: filing requirements, public accessibility, enforcement, and content of the disclosure forms.

SII also cites the following problems for the low grades it gave Vermont:

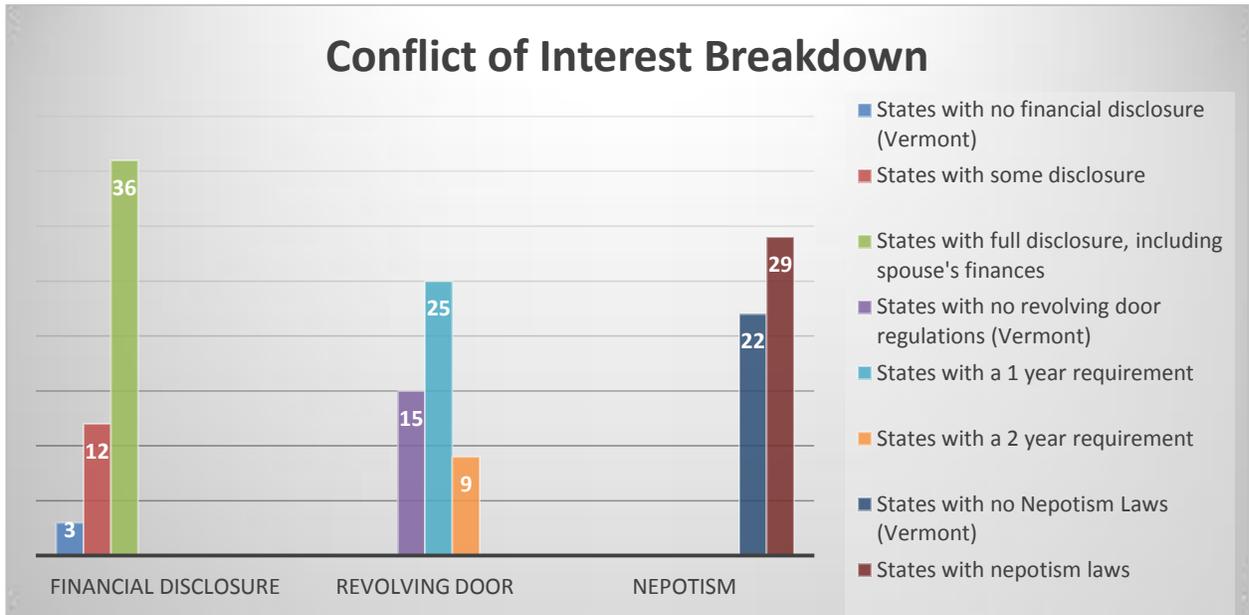
- Laws do not clearly preclude legislators from using public funds for personal use and there is no oversight to prevent it.
- A lack of regulations governing conflicts of interest for legislators.
- No restrictions on setting up non-profit organizations that officials can use to reward political supporters.
- Civil servants convicted of corruption are not prohibited by law from future state government employment.

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<sup>2</sup> CFV Ethics chart (<http://ow.ly/saHsI>) and State Integrity Investigation

<sup>3</sup> CFV Ethics chart - <http://ow.ly/saHsI>

<sup>4</sup> CFV Ethics chart - <http://ow.ly/saHsI>

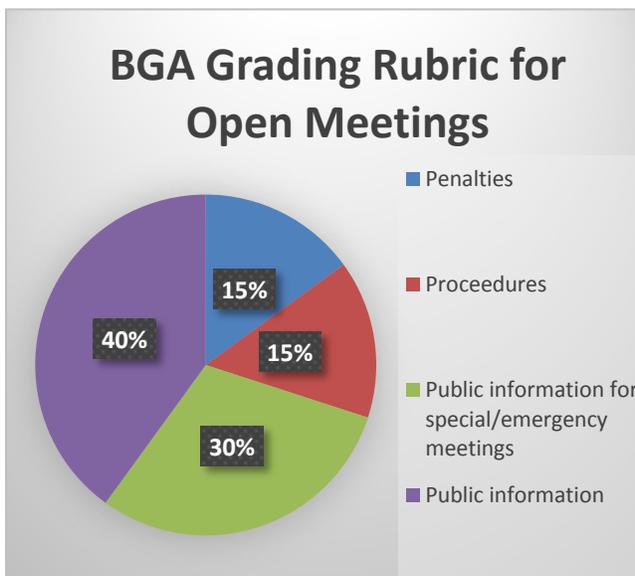


Source: State Integrity Investigation

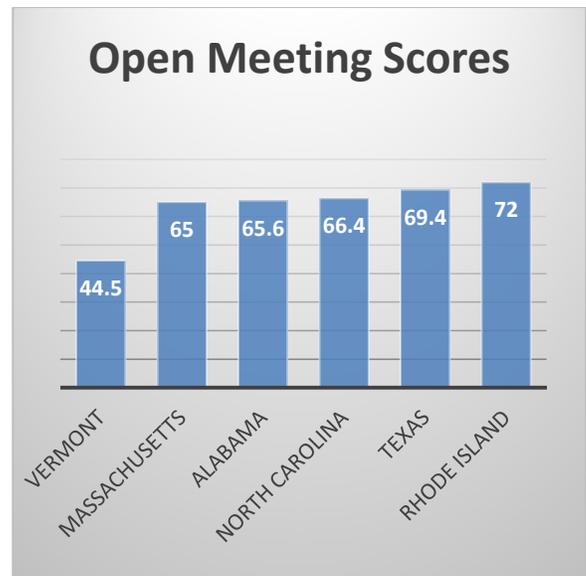
Washington State was ranked well by SII for legislative accountability because of a strong ethics commission. There are regulations governing conflicts of interest, and there is public access to legislative process documents and financial disclosure forms.

### OPEN MEETINGS

Every state has passed an open meetings act to give public access to government meetings. BGA graded each state on how well they inform the public about such meetings. The thinking here is that public attendance of government meetings fosters public awareness and keeps government open and accountable. Vermont received a score of 44.5%, putting us in 33<sup>rd</sup> place. See below for the grading rubric BGA used.



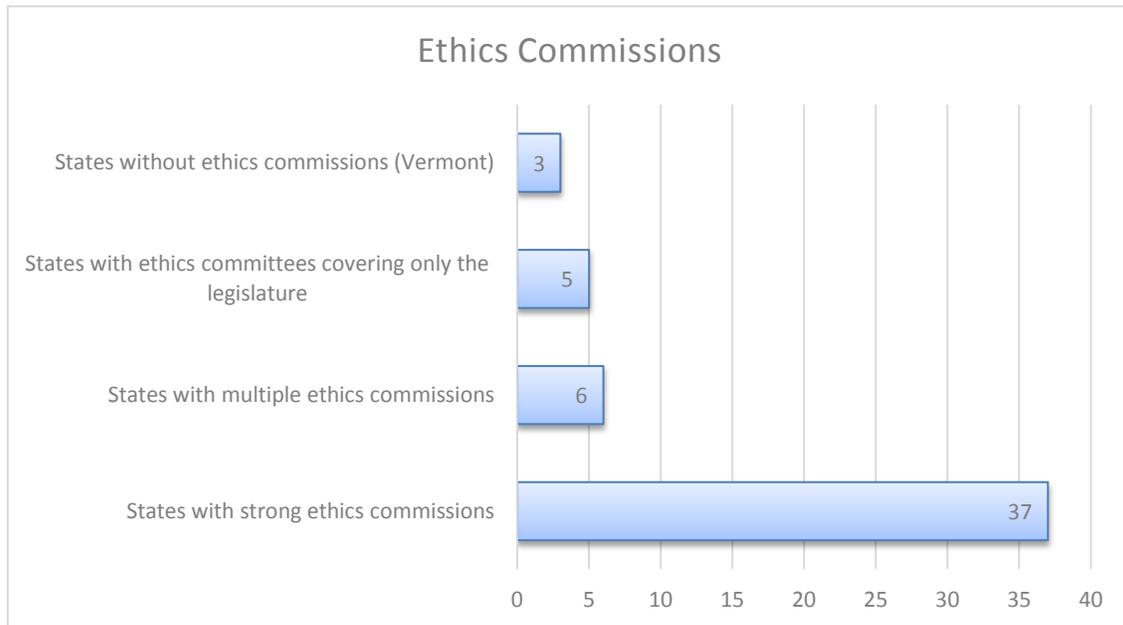
Source: BGA Integrity Index



Source: BGA Integrity Index

## ETHICS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Vermont received an “F” from SII for lack of a professional ethics enforcement agency. Forty-three states have an ethics commission with enforcement capability. Generally a commission is made up of seven to nine people and functions as a quasi-judicial entity.



Source: CFV Ethics Chart - <http://ow.ly/saHsl>

States like New Jersey rank high on SII's chart for ethics enforcement largely because of a strict code of ethics backed up by a quasi-judicial commission. New Jersey has an effective code of ethics enforced by a professional ethics enforcement agency that is governed by effective conflict of interest regulations.

## VERMONT BACKGROUND

Campaign for Vermont has conducted a summary of legislation (see appendix) that has been introduced and/or enacted over the past ten years relating to the subject of ethics, conflicts of interest, and disclosure requirements. Campaign for Vermont (CFV) acknowledges that pieces of legislation introduced may have been incorporated in other legislation (i.e. budget bills). CFV generally finds that out of the almost 6500 pieces of legislation introduced or considered, between 2003 and 2013, the Vermont General Assembly has enacted essentially no ethics, conflict of interest, legislator conduct, or disclosure requirements that would impact their activities directly.

However, one of the most notable laws passed within the last 10 years painstakingly regulates the commercial activity of one particular segment of the economy. CFV points to this law only for illustrative purposes, using Act 59, passed in 2010, as an example of the exhaustive debate that occurred and the especially comprehensive resulting law that was enacted requiring disclosure of gifts from manufacturers of prescription medications and products.

[2010 Legislative Session - Act 59 \(S.48\)](#)<sup>5</sup> *“establishes a ban on gifts from manufacturers of prescription drugs, medical devices, and biological products (“prescribed products”) to a health care professional, hospital, nursing home, pharmacist, health benefit plan administrator, or anyone else authorized to dispense or purchase for distribution prescribed products in Vermont...”*

Note: This law was modified in 2011.<sup>6</sup>

In 2011, the legislature enacted Act 157 the legislature set out to protect vulnerable minors and adults.

[2011 Legislative Session – Act 157 \(H.431\)](#)<sup>7</sup> *“which required, when a prospective employee applies for a job, that the prospective employer request, and the previous employer disclose, “all factual information that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that the prospective employee engaged in conduct jeopardizing the safety of a minor or vulnerable adult” while working for the previous employer.”*

Note: This requirement was subsequently repealed by Sec. 27 of Act No. 56 of 2011.

Most recently, during the 2013 legislative session, 77 members of the House of Representatives sponsored [H.267](#)<sup>8</sup>, An act relating to prohibiting certain employment after an elected or appointed official in the Executive Branch leaves public office.

The [House Government Operations Committee](#)<sup>9</sup> has jurisdiction of [H.267](#), *“short form” piece of legislation*<sup>10</sup>. Specifically, this bill would *“prohibit for one year after the termination of public office an elected or appointed official in the Executive Branch from accepting employment from a person who is regulated by the public body to which the official was elected or appointed and which involves a matter in which the official directly and substantially participated during public office”*.

For a complete summary of the past ten years (2003 -2013) legislation considered, please review the attached Appendix.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/database/status/textonly.cfm?Bill=S.0048&Session=2010>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/database/status/summary.cfm?Bill=S%2E0104&Session=2012>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/database/status/summary.cfm?Bill=H%2E0431&Session=2012>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/database/status/summary.cfm?Bill=H%2E0267&Session=2014>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/legdir/comms.cfm?Body=H&Session=2014>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/database/status/summary.cfm?Bill=H%2E0267&Session=2014>



## **VERMONT CODE OF ETHICS RECOMMENDATIONS**

Campaign for Vermont believes meaningful laws must be adopted to protect both the public trust and the integrity of the vast majority of dedicated public servants who are honest beyond reproach. Ethics laws will reduce cynicism about, and improve confidence in, state government.

There will be some politicians and special interests who will resist meaningful ethics reforms. As a progressive leader among states, Vermont must ensure that public officials behave ethically. Public officials and state employees should therefore support the establishment and adherence to the highest standards of ethical conduct. This would be a powerful illustration of their respect for public trust and Vermonters' right to have a government that is open, accountable, and responsive. It would also help avoid the appearance of impropriety. Vermonters have a right to enforceable rules that prevent elected officials and public servants from using their positions for private gain or advantage.

### **SCOPE**

The Legislature should establish, in law, a code of ethics that governs the actions of elected and appointed officials, as well as, employees at all levels and branches of state government. This includes all statewide officials, cabinet level officials, senior members of state civil services, all legislators, and agencies as well as individuals appointed to serve on any state board, commission or agency with any decision-making capacity.

Specifically, Campaign for Vermont proposes Vermont's ethics laws address financial disclosure for officials, conflicts of interest, gifts, voting conflicts, and the revolving door in state government. CFV also proposes that Vermont establish an independent, quasi-judicial commission to rule on matters pertaining to real or perceived violations of the ethics law.

### **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE AND EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS**

When elected to public office, constitutional officers should be obligated to disclose their financial interests, and to continue to disclose them annually. Campaign for Vermont recommends these filings be submitted prior to the beginning of each year of the legislative biennium so the financial interests of officials are publicly available prior to the start of the annual legislative session.

The public has a right to know the financial interests and where the work of statewide public officials could constitute a conflict and where the obligations, of influence and power, of their office might be used to serve their own personal financial interests. Vermonters have seen this scenario play out multiple times at the local level.

Further, Vermont's ethics laws should be similar to those of other states around the country and prohibit all activities that include financial or business interests regarding employment, transactions, or professional activity. Anything that is - or could potentially be - in conflict with an official's ability to carry out her or his duties in the public's interest should be disclosed.

Vermont has a citizen legislature that we should all be proud of. It is the cornerstone of our political culture. However, this blend of public and private life is not without drawbacks; it often obscures conflicts of interest. Public officials who have been in government long enough may not even realize a conflict exists.

Campaign for Vermont proposes that all persons who are covered by the established ethics laws should avoid employment that will be in conflict with, or influence their judgment, while carrying out the duties of their public office. When conflicts do exist, they should be fully disclosed.

When a public official is not sure whether a situation constitutes a conflict of interest, they should have the ability to ask the ethics commission for an advisory opinion.

Enacting these measures will help to breed a culture of transparency and ethical conduct in state government. This level of transparency is needed, and the state has an obligation to lead by example with the hope municipal governments will adopt equally transparent standards.

### **USING PUBLIC RESOURCES FOR PRIVATE GAIN**

Using public resources for private gain, no matter how subtle, is a gross misuse of the public trust. For example, trading favoritism in the contract bidding process for political favors, using confidential information gained through public service for personal gain or using office to improve employment prospects for family members.

Seeking or disclosing confidential information - or requesting that subordinate public employees seek or disclose confidential information - for the purpose of financial gain should also be clearly prohibited.

### **GIFTS**

No government official or public employee should have the opportunity to be influenced by gifts (as defined by law) - including, but not limited to, a loan, real property, personal service, promise of future employment, financial gain, or anything of monetary value - in exchange for a vote or preferential treatment.

Current law requires gift disclosure by lobbyists. This responsibility should also be shared by lawmakers. Putting responsibility solely on lobbyists leaves open the possibility for government officials to be influenced by non-lobbyist actors. For example, a business owner may be affected by pending legislation. While CFV certainly supports business owners having their voices heard, those voices should not be influenced through personal favors.

In 2010 Vermont passed a law prohibiting pharmaceutical companies from buying food or drinks for doctors, nurses, and hospital administrators. CFV believes that these same restrictions should be applied to lawmakers.

### **VOTING CONFLICTS**

Many times, a proposed bill not only serves the interests or disinterests of businesses, groups, or organizations, but also the lawmakers who pass or defeat it.

In the event that a lawmaker should find his or herself with an individual, business, or financial conflict of interest with a bill coming up for vote, that lawmaker should be required by law to identify the conflict and disclose that conflict of interest to the legislative body and to the public.

Laws should not be passed or defeated based on the positive or negative interests of a lawmaker. By requiring public officials to disclose potential voting conflicts we, as Vermonters, encourage them to confront their biases in a new light and encourage an open and transparent dialogue, and prevent biases from becoming policy.

### **PROHIBITING NEPOTISM**

Nepotism, or the preferential treatment towards family members of elected or appointed officials, is taken seriously in the business community. It should be taken seriously, and be clearly prohibited, by state government as well.

Nepotism among family members of the individuals subject to the code of ethics should be viewed just as seriously as individuals covered by the code of ethics. Taking official action that can result in favorable or unfavorable interest for a family member or personal relationship should be prohibited. Anyone who is covered under Vermont's new ethics laws should be required to refrain from activities that would benefit family members or friends beyond the normal course of government service.

### **CLOSE THE REVOLVING DOOR**

The revolving door in Vermont's political system has evolved from a potential post-public office career, into an expected - almost certain - career move into the private sector. When politicians leave office, they become the target of corporations and special interest groups for lobbying. Because they are only recently removed from the legislative atmosphere, these former lawmakers still have the connections and means to influence public policy, as well as they did while they were in the legislature. Campaign for Vermont believes that public officials must be 2 years removed from public office before working in positions intended to directly influence the outcome of decisions and deliberations within government.

### **INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMISSION**

Lastly, Vermont's new ethics law must establish an independent, nonpartisan, and quasi-judicial commission to investigate violations and enforce the laws. Without such a commission, there is no oversight, no accountability, and no assurances that the ethics law is being followed.

In our position paper, [\*\*Achieving Accountability: Transforming State Government into a Modern, Transparent 21<sup>st</sup> Century System\*\*](#), CFV recommended the creation of an independent commission - Transparency & Accountability Authority (TAA).

It is CFV's opinion that the jurisdiction of the TAA be expanded to include the administration and enforcement of ethics laws and policies.

The independent Authority's governing board would be composed of nine members that are chosen by both governing and non-governing bodies; three members will be appointed jointly by the Vermont Broadcasters Association and the Vermont Press Association; three members appointed jointly by the Public Assets Institute and Ethan Allen Institute; and three members of the business community shall be nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Members of the commission will only be able to serve one five-year term, and must themselves adhere to the laws provided in the code of ethics. Members should also be given approved compensation for time and travel expenses while serving on the commission.

The commission should be responsible for establishing and implementing a program to educate public officials and employees. This should occur at least twice annually, and should also have an additional interactive web-based format. The commission should also work as an advisory to any person covered under the code of ethics to provide advisory opinions and help interpret the laws under the code of ethics. The commission must also have the power to subpoena evidence and witnesses. It is also important for any final decision made by the commission to be subject to judicial review of the Vermont Supreme Court.

An independent ethics commission with the power to enforce a code of ethics is the single greatest step we can take towards a more transparent and ethical government in Vermont.

### **RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY**

Campaign for Vermont advocates for protecting public trust and holding elected officials to the highest ethical standards. We propose that a strict code of ethics be established which includes the following elements: a clearly defined method for dealing with potential conflicts of interest; full financial disclosure for statewide public officials; shared gift disclosure requirements; restrictions on nepotism and patronage; closing the revolving door in our political system; and the establishment of an independent commission to deal with ethics, transparency, and accountability.

## Appendix

### Summary of Legislation Introduced and Enacted Between 2003 -2013

The following is a list of legislation that was introduced and/or enacted on the subject matter of “ethics”, “conflicts of interest”, “legislator conduct”, and “disclosure”. The lists below are taken directly from the Vermont Legislative Bill Tracking Database.<sup>11</sup>

From 2003 to 2014 there have been; introduced 1 and 0 enacted related to “ethics”; introduced 0 and 0 enacted related to “conflicts of interest”; 5 introduced and 2 enacted related to “lobbyists”; none introduced or enacted related to “legislator conduct”, 2 introduced and 1 enacted related to “disclosure”.

A search of the legislative website for the terms “Ethics,” “Conflict of Interest,” “Disclosure,” and “Lobbyist” yield the following results. Bills that actually relate to ethics reforms have been highlighted yellow. Bills that have passed into law will have an act number in the right hand column.

#### **2013 Legislation**

“Ethics” = 1 introduced

| Bill   | Title   | Act No. |
|--------|---|---------|
| H.0267 | An act relating to prohibiting certain employment after an elected or appointed official in the Executive Branch leaves public office |         |

“Conflict of Interest” = 1 introduced

| Bill                   | Title   | Act No. |
|------------------------|---|---------|
| <a href="#">H.0073</a> | An act relating to the Office of the Child Advocate |         |

“Disclosure” = 6 introduced, 3 enacted

| Bill   | Title   | Act No. |
|--------|---|---------|
| H.0094 | An act relating to reporting and disclosure of heating fuel prices  |         |
| H.0099 | An act relating to equal pay  | 0031    |
| H.0248 | An act relating to disclosing to buyers in real estate transactions information regarding utility corridor right-of-way proposals |         |
| H.0436 | An act relating to child victims of physical abuse and court procedural rules   |         |
| H.0520 | An act relating to reducing energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions   | 0089    |
| S.0148 | An act relating to criminal investigation records and the Vermont Public Records Act  | 0070    |

“Lobbyist” = 0

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/ResearchMain.cfm>

## **2011 - 2012 Legislation**

“Ethics” = 0

“Conflict of Interest” = 0

“Disclosure” = 21 introduced, 9 enacted

| <b>Bill</b> | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Act No.</b> |
|-------------|--|----------------|
| H.0056      | An act relating to the Vermont Energy Act of 2011  | 0047           |
| H.0057      | An act relating to disclosure to potential buyers of a building’s energy performance   |                |
| H.0102      | An act relating to reporting and disclosure of heating fuel prices   |                |
| H.0254      | An act relating to consumer protection   | 0109           |
| H.0431      | An act relating to extending the implementation date of certain employment-related disclosure requirements   | 0005           |
| H.0450      | An act relating to limited immunity from liability for job performance information disclosed to employers of individuals who work with minors or vulnerable adults |                |
| H.0473      | An act relating to the confidentiality of pension records of a retired state employee  |                |
| H.0497      | An act relating to disclosure of a building’s energy performance   |                |
| H.0515      | An act relating to holding public agencies harmless for disclosure of property tax adjustment information  | 0070           |
| H.0534      | An act relating to the reporting requirements of health insurers   |                |
| H.0571      | An act relating to Vermont’s prescribed product manufacturer gift ban and disclosure requirements  |                |
| H.0618      | An act relating to sales by health care practitioners and gifts from dietary supplement manufacturers  |                |
| H.0709      | An act relating to disclosure of information to the parents of a child suspected of abusing another child  |                |
| H.0723      | An act relating to public disclosure of federal grant conditions   |                |
| H.0730      | An act relating to miscellaneous consumer protection laws  | 0136           |
| H.0764      | An act relating to health insurance brokers’ fees  |                |
| H.0782      | An act relating to miscellaneous tax changes for 2012  | 0143           |
| S.0018      | An act relating to the disclosure of tax administration information to tax representatives   |                |
| S.0104      | An act relating to modifications to the ban on gifts by manufacturers of prescribed products   | 0051           |
| S.0180      | An act relating to the universal service fund and establishment of a high-cost program   | 0169           |
| S.0200      | An act relating to pharmacy audits, reimbursement for ambulance services, and the reporting requirements of health insurers  | 0150           |

“Lobbyists”: introduced = 1, enacted = 0

| <b>Bill</b> | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Act No.</b> |
|-------------|--|----------------|
| H.0186      | An act relating to requiring lobbyists to wear badges in the state house |                |

### **2009 Special Session**

"Ethics" = 0

"Conflict of Interest" = 0

"Lobbyists" = 0

"Disclosure" = 1 introduced, 1 enacted

| Bill   | Title   | Act No. |
|--------|---|---------|
| S.0048 | An act relating to the marketing of prescribed products | 0059    |

### **2009-2010 Legislative Session**

"Ethics" = 0

"Conflict of Interest" = 0

"Disclosure" = 8 introduced, 5 enacted

| Bill   | Title   | Act No. |
|--------|---|---------|
| H.0226 | An act relating to privatization contracts  |         |
| H.0444 | An act relating to health care reform   | 0061    |
| S.0026 | An act relating to recovery of profits from crime, the disposition of property upon death, transfer of interest in vehicle upon death, homestead exemption, unclaimed property, credit card fee disputes, and patient's privilege | 0055    |
| S.0048 | An act relating to the marketing of prescribed products   | 0059    |
| S.0088 | An act relating to health care financing and universal access to health care in Vermont   | 0128    |
| S.0215 | An act relating to mandatory gratuities   |         |
| S.0216 | An act relating to credit card disclosures  |         |
| S.0292 | An act relating to term probation, the right to bail, medical care of inmates, and a reduction in the number of nonviolent prisoners, probationers, and detainees   | 0157    |

"Lobbyists" = 1 introduced, 0 enacted

| Bill   | Title  | Act No. |
|--------|--|---------|
| H.0745 | An act relating to requiring lobbyists to wear badges in the state house |         |

### **2007- 2008 Legislative Session**

"Ethics" = 0

"Conflict of Interest" = 0

"Disclosure" = 4 introduced, 1 enacted

| Bill   | Title  | Act No. |
|--------|--|---------|
| H.0600 | CREDIT CARD MERCHANT FEES  |         |
| H.0676 | MOTOR VEHICLE LEASE DISCLOSURES  |         |
| H.0750 | PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING AND INFORMATION  | 0089    |
| H.0861 | EXTENDING DISCLOSURE PROTECTIONS IN THE CANCER REGISTRY TO RESEARCHERS OUTSIDE THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT |         |

"Lobbyist" = 1 introduced, 1 enacted

| Bill   | Title                     | Act No. |
|--------|---------------------------|---------|
| H.0357 | REGISTRATION OF LOBBYISTS | 0005    |

### **2005 Special Session**

"Ethics" = 0

"Conflict of Interest" = 0

"Lobbyists" = 0

"Disclosure" = 0

### **2005-2006 Legislative Session**

"Ethics" = 0

"Conflict of Interest" = 0

"Disclosure" = 4 introduced, 1 enacted

| Bill   | Title  | Act No. |
|--------|--|---------|
| H.0600 | CREDIT CARD MERCHANT FEES  |         |
| H.0676 | MOTOR VEHICLE LEASE DISCLOSURES  |         |
| H.0750 | PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING AND INFORMATION  | 0089    |
| H.0861 | EXTENDING DISCLOSURE PROTECTIONS IN THE CANCER REGISTRY TO RESEARCHERS OUTSIDE THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT |         |

"Lobbyists" = 2 introduced, 1 enacted

| Bill   | Title                     | Act No. |
|--------|---------------------------|---------|
| H.0248 | REGISTRATION OF LOBBYISTS | 0099    |
| S.0115 | REGISTRATION OF LOBBYISTS |         |

### **2003-2004 Legislative Session**

"Ethics" = 0

"Conflict of Interest" = 0

"Lobbyists" = 0

"Disclosure" = 12 introduced, 1 enacted

| Bill   | Title  | Act No. |
|--------|--|---------|
| H.0093 | OFFENDER LABOR DISCLOSURE  |         |
| H.0189 | PROVIDING CONSUMERS OF LEGAL SERVICES WITH THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF AN ATTORNEY'S FAILURE TO CARRY MALPRACTICE INSURANCE |         |
| H.0315 | ENCRYPTION OF ACCOUNT NUMBERS  |         |
| H.0493 | PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES   |         |
| H.0529 | THE DISCLOSURE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES   |         |
| H.0532 | THE DISCLOSURE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG MARKETING COSTS  |         |
| H.0703 | CONSUMER FILE DISCLOSURE BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURERS  |         |
| H.0768 | MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT  | 0122    |
| S.0018 | THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS  |         |
| S.0105 | STATE EMPLOYEE ACCESS TO FILES OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  |         |
| S.0205 | POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE DISCLOSURE IN POLITICAL ADVERTISING   |         |
| S.0288 | STATE PROGRAMS AND POLICIES ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS  |         |

Source: VT Legislative Website - <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/ResearchMain.cfm>