
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 102 (S.171). State Code of Ethics; State Ethics Commission

An act relating to adoption of a State code of ethics

This act amends 3 V.S.A. chapter 31 (Governmental Ethics) to adopt a State code of ethics.

Sec. 1 amends and adds definitions in 3 V.S.A. § 1201 and places a code of ethics into statute by adding the following new statutory sections:

- § 1202 – Applicability of the State Code of Ethics
- § 1203 – Conflict of interest; appearance of conflict of interest
- § 1203a – Directing unethical conduct
- § 1203b – Appearance of unethical conduct
- § 1203c – Preferential treatment
- § 1203d – Misuse of position
- § 1203e – Misuse of information
- § 1203f – Misuse of government resources
- § 1203g – Gift limitations and exceptions
- § 1203h – Unauthorized commitments
- § 1203i – Employment restrictions
- § 1203j – Compliance with laws, rules, and policies
- § 1204 – Whistleblower protections for ethics complaints
- § 1205 – Mandatory code of ethics education and training

Sec. 2 repeals 3 V.S.A. § 1211(e); this repeal removes two definitions from later in the Governmental Ethics chapter in order to consolidate the definitions in section 1201. The definitions are for “domestic partner” and “lobbyist/lobbying firm”; this repeal does not change the meaning of either of the definitions as they apply to the Governmental Ethics chapter.

Sec. 2a adds a new training reporting requirement for the State Ethics Commission as part of its annual report to the General Assembly pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 1226.

Sec. 3 states that this act will take effect on July 1, 2022.
Effective Date: July 1, 2022