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H.363

Introduced by Representative Howard of Rutland City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Elections; campaign finance; candidates; expenditures; permitted
expenditures

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to permit a
candidate for statewide office to receive a salary from the candidate's
campaign funds.

An act relating to campaign expenditures and candidate salaries

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

Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2901 is amended to read:

§ 2901. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

* * *

(7) "Expenditure" means a payment, disbursement, distribution,
advance, deposit, loan, or gift of money or anything of value, paid or promised
to be paid, for the purpose of influencing an election, advocating a position on
a public question, or supporting or opposing one or more candidates.

1 (A) Expenditures may include a salary provided to a candidate for
2 statewide office, provided that:

3 (i) the salary does not exceed the salary the candidate received as
4 earned income in the previous year based on the amount of income the
5 candidate filed with the Department of Taxes;

6 (ii) the candidate has obtained the number of petition signatures
7 required for the statewide office pursuant to 17 V.S.A. chapter 49;

8 (iii) a candidate who elects to receive a salary must provide
9 income tax records and additional proof of earnings from relevant years to the
10 State's Attorney or the Attorney General upon their request;

11 (iv) payments of salary must be made on a pro-rata basis (a
12 candidate may not receive a whole year's salary if the candidate is not a
13 candidate for statewide office for an entire twelve-month period);

14 (v) the first payment of salary shall be made no sooner than the
15 petition filing deadline for the statewide election in which the candidate is
16 running for office; and

17 (vi) salary payments may continue until the date when the
18 candidate is no longer considered a candidate for office or until the date of the
19 election in which the candidate is running for statewide office.

20 (B) As used in this chapter, "expenditure" shall not include any of the
21 following:

