

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 171 entitled “An act relating to adoption of a State code of ethics”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: In Sec. 1, 3 V.S.A. chapter 31, subchapter 1, by striking out section
7 1205 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new section 1205 to read as
8 follows:

9 § 1205. MANDATORY CODE OF ETHICS EDUCATION AND

10 TRAINING

11 Within the first 120 days of public service, a public servant shall engage in
12 State Code of Ethics training, which may be in person or online. Completion
13 of State Code of Ethics training shall be documented by the department where
14 the public servant is employed. A public servant shall participate in continuing
15 State Code of Ethics education, which may be in person or online, at least once
16 every three years thereafter. Approved continuing State Code of Ethics
17 education providers are the State Ethics Commission, the Department of
18 Human Resources – Center for Achievement in Public Service (CAPS), the
19 Vermont House of Representatives Ethics Panel for the House of
20 Representatives, the Vermont Senate Ethics Panel for the Senate, the Vermont
21 Supreme Court and the Court Administrator’s Office for the Vermont

1 Judiciary, and any education providers approved by the State Ethics
2 Commission. Copies of State Code of Ethics training materials by ethics
3 education providers shall be provided to the State Ethics Commission in
4 advance of the training. On request, the State Ethics Commission may
5 collaborate with or assist State Code of Ethics education providers.

6 Second: By adding a new section to be Sec. 2a to read as follows:

7 Sec. 2a. 3 V.S.A. § 1226 is amended to read:

8 § 1226. COMMISSION REPORTS

9 Annually, on or before January 15, the Commission shall report to the
10 General Assembly regarding the following issues:

11 (1) Complaints. The number and a summary of the complaints made to
12 it, separating the complaints by topic, and the disposition of those complaints,
13 including any prosecution, enforcement action, or dismissal. This summary of
14 complaints shall not include any personal identifying information.

15 (2) Guidance and training.

16 (A) Guidance. The number of requests for and a summary of the
17 guidance the Executive Director provided, separating the guidance by topic.
18 This summary of guidance shall not include any personal identifying
19 information.

20 (B) Training. An estimate of the number of Code of Ethics trainings
21 conducted by each branch of government, a summary of the training activities

1 undertaken by the Ethics Commission, and a summary of any
2 recommendations the Commission or the Executive Director made to any
3 branch of State government regarding additional training or more in-depth
4 training for particular provisions of the Code of Ethics.

5 (3) Recommendations. Any recommendations for legislative action to
6 address State governmental ethics or provisions of campaign finance law.

7 Third: In Sec. 1, 3 V.S.A. chapter 31, subchapter 1, in section 1203g, in
8 subsection (a), by striking out subdivision (7) in its entirety and inserting in
9 lieu thereof a new subdivision (7) to read as follows:

10 (7) Admission fees and tickets. A public servant may accept free
11 attendance to a widely attended charitable, cultural, political, or civic event at
12 which a public servant participates in the public servant's official capacity,
13 provided such tickets or admission is provided by the primary sponsoring
14 entity. Free attendance may include all or part of the cost of admission;
15 transportation to and from the event; and food, refreshments, entertainment,
16 and instructional materials provided to all event attendees.

17
18
19
20
21

1 (Committee vote: _____)

2

3

Representative _____

4

FOR THE COMMITTEE