

**S.171 (2022) – An act relating to adoption of a State code of ethics  
OVERVIEW**

S.171 is based on the [proposed code of ethics from the Vermont State Ethics Commission](#) (submitted to SGO and HGO on November 11, 2020), with some modifications.

Sec. 1 – Amends and adds definitions in Title 3, chapter 31 (Governmental Ethics)

Sec. 2 – Places a code of ethics into statute and includes the following main provisions:

§ 1202(a) – Applicability of the state code of ethics

§ 1202(b) – Exclusions from the state code of ethics

§ 1202(c) – Outlines “ethical conduct” in the following circumstances:

- (1) Conflicts of interest;
- (2) Directing unethical conduct;
- (3) Conduct after recusal;
- (4) Appearance of unethical conduct;
- (5) Preferential treatment;
- (6) Misuse of position;
- (7) Misuse of information;
- (8) Misuse of government resources;
- (9) Gifts;
- (10) Unauthorized commitments;
- (11) Outside employment;
- (12) Compliance with laws, rules and policies

§ 1202(d) – Outlines whistleblower protections for ethics complaints.

§ 1202(e) – Requires mandatory ethics education and training for public servants.

Sec. 3 – Effective date: July 1, 2022