

Vermont State Ethics Commission Comments on Proposed H. 429 Language

§ 2414 CANDIDATES FOR STATE AND LEGISLATIVE OFFICE; DISCLOSURE FORM

§ 2415 FAILURE TO FILE; PENALTIES

§ 2414 (2)(A) The Secretary of State shall post a copy of any disclosure forms and tax returns the Secretary receives under this section on the Secretary's official State website **and forward a copy of disclosures made by candidates for State office, State Senator, or State Representative to the State Ethics Commission**. The forms shall remain posted on the Secretary's website until the date of the filing deadline for petition and consent forms for major party candidates for the statewide primary in the following election cycle.

Comment: The Ethics Commission suggests the language in bold be removed. The Ethics Commission and the Secretary of State will develop a mutually agreed upon process to share disclosure information between the two offices.

§ 2415 (a)(4)(f) The Attorney General's office shall notify the State Ethics Commission within 10 days after receipt after a complaint under this subchapter and, **within 90 days** after receipt of a complaint, shall file a report with the Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission with the results of any investigation undertaken under this subchapter or, if the Attorney General's office declines to initiate an investigation, a summary of the reasons why an investigation was not initiated.

Comment: The Ethics Commission suggests the language in bold changed from 90 days to 180 days, or another period of time preferred by the Office of the Attorney General beyond 90 days.