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S.291

An act relating to travel disclosures for legislators and certain executive officers

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

\* \* \* Travel Disclosures \* \* \*

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 1201 is amended to read:

§ 1201. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

\* \* \*

(10) “Immediate family” means an individual’s spouse, domestic partner, or civil union partner; child or foster child; sibling; parent; or such relations by marriage or by civil union or domestic partnership; or an individual claimed as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

\* \* \*

(16) “Staff” means any individual who supports a member of the General Assembly or an executive officer in the member’s or executive officer’s official capacity and acts at the direction of the member or executive officer, whether paid or unpaid or receiving academic credit.

(17) “State officer” means the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts, or Attorney General.

1           ~~(17)~~(18) “Unethical conduct” means any conduct of a public servant in  
2 violation of the Code of Ethics, as provided for in this chapter.

3           Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 1214 is added to read:

4           § 1214. TRAVEL DISCLOSURES; IN GENERAL

5           (a) Applicability.

6           (1) A member of the General Assembly or an executive officer shall file  
7 with the State Ethics Commission, or as otherwise directed by law, a disclosure  
8 detailing costs and associated information for any travel made in the course of  
9 the member’s or executive officer’s official capacity or that would not have  
10 likely occurred but for the member’s or executive officer’s status of occupying  
11 the member’s or executive officer’s office.

12           (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, a member or an  
13 executive officer is not required to file a disclosure if the travel is:

14           (A) fully paid by the member or executive officer, this State, or the  
15 federal government; or

16           (B) of de minimis value, meaning having a value of \$50.00 or less  
17 per source per occasion, provided that the aggregate market value of the  
18 individual item received from any one source shall not exceed \$150.00 in a  
19 calendar year.

1       (b) Contents and design of disclosure.

2           (1) A member of the General Assembly or an executive officer shall  
3 disclose, in writing:

4           (A) the purpose of the travel;

5           (B) whether the travel was purely in the member's or executive  
6 officer's official capacity or made for another purpose;

7           (C) the itinerary of travel, including dates of travel and any stopover  
8 or intentional visit to another location prior to the destination of travel;

9           (D)(i) with reasonable particularity, any expense made or  
10 reimbursement received for all costs associated with transportation to and from  
11 any destination, and food, refreshments, tickets and admissions, entertainment,  
12 lodging, and anything else of value, whether for cost or in kind, associated  
13 with the travel; and

14           (ii) notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (i) of this  
15 subdivision (D), a member or an executive officer is not required to disclose  
16 any expenses or reimbursements for any travel fully paid by the member or  
17 executive officer, this State, or the federal government;

18           (E) the date of any expense or reimbursement; and

19           (F) if certain costs associated with the travel were in part paid for or  
20 reimbursed by any other source than the member or executive officer or this  
21 State, indicate what amount was paid for or reimbursed by:

1           (i) the State;

2           (ii) the member's or executive officer's own person; or

3           (iii) any other sources, including associations, lobbyists, political  
4 committees and parties, individuals, other countries, states, and territories.

5           (2) A member or an executive officer shall also make the same  
6 disclosures described in subdivision (1) of this subsection for any staff and  
7 immediate family accompanying the member or executive officer on the travel.  
8 These disclosures shall include the name and title of any staff and only the  
9 nature of the relationship for any immediate family.

10          (3) A member or an executive officer shall attest to the veracity and  
11 completeness of the disclosed information and sign and date the disclosure.

12          (4) Disclosure forms shall, where appropriate, be designed by the State  
13 Ethics Commission.

14          (c) Filing date. A member of the General Assembly or an executive officer  
15 shall file the disclosure within 30 calendar days following the conclusion of  
16 travel.

17          (d) Supplemental disclosure. A member of the General Assembly or an  
18 executive officer shall file with the State Ethics Commission, or as otherwise  
19 directed by law, a supplemental disclosure in accordance with section 1203 of  
20 this title if a particular matter involving the payer or orchestrator of any  
21 expense or reimbursement detailed in subsection (b) of this section comes

1 before the member or executive officer during the six months following such  
2 acceptance or reimbursement.

3 Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 1215 is added to read:

4 § 1215. TRAVEL DISCLOSURES; EXECUTIVE OFFICERS UNDER  
5 GOVERNOR

6 (a) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection §1214(a) of this title,  
7 an executive officer serving under the Governor is not required to disclose any  
8 expenses or reimbursements for any travel if:

9 (1) that executive officer's travel is otherwise required to be approved,  
10 reported, and disclosed pursuant to a rule or bulletin as adopted by the  
11 Governor;

12 (2) that rule or bulletin conforms to the requirements of section 1214 of  
13 this title; and

14 (3) copies of all disclosures made by the executive officers pursuant to  
15 the rule or bulletin are posted on the Agency of Administration's website.

16 (b) The Agency of Administration may design its own disclosure forms for  
17 executive officers serving under the Governor, provided these forms conform  
18 to the requirements of subsection 1214(b) of this title.





1 (b) Membership.

2 (1) The Commission shall be composed of the following seven  
3 members:

4 (A) one member, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme  
5 Court;

6 (B) one member, appointed by the League of Women Voters of  
7 Vermont, who shall be a member of the League;

8 (C) one member, appointed by the Board of Directors of the Vermont  
9 Society of Certified Public Accountants, who shall be a member of the Society;

10 (D) one member, appointed by the ~~Board of Managers of the~~  
11 ~~Vermont Bar Association, who shall be a member of the Association~~  
12 Governor;

13 (E) one member, appointed by the Board of Directors of the SHRM  
14 (Society for Human Resource Management) Vermont State Council, who shall  
15 be a member of the Council;

16 (F) one member, who shall be a former municipal officer, appointed  
17 by the Speaker of the House; and

18 (G) one member, who shall be a former municipal officer, appointed  
19 by the Senate Committee on Committees.

20 \* \* \*

1 (e) Meetings.

2 (1) Meetings of the Commission:

3 ~~(1)~~(A) shall be held at least quarterly for the purpose of the Executive  
4 Director updating the Commission on the Executive Director's work;

5 ~~(2)~~(B) may be called by the Chair and shall be called upon the  
6 request of any other two Commission members; and

7 ~~(3)~~(C) shall be conducted in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 310 et seq.

8 (2) A majority of the currently appointed members of the Commission  
9 shall constitute a quorum. Once a quorum has been established, the vote of a  
10 majority of the members present at the time of the vote shall be an act of the  
11 Commission.

12 \* \* \*

13 \* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

14 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.