

**Senate proposal of amendment to House proposal of amendment**

**S. 298**

An act relating to creating the Vermont Voting Rights Act.

The Senate concurs in the House proposal of amendment with further proposals of amendment thereto:

First: By striking out Sec. 4, 17 V.S.A. § 2414, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4. CANDIDATES FOR STATE, LEGISLATIVE, AND  
COUNTY OFFICE; DISCLOSURE FORM

Through May 30, 2027:

(1) The State Ethics Commission shall provide informational resources to candidates and answer candidates' questions regarding the requirements of 17 V.S.A. § 2414, how to accurately complete and submit the candidate disclosure form, and the penalties for failing to properly file the disclosure form pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2415. The Commission shall make available on its web page the disclosure form, prepared responses to frequently asked questions, and any informational resources and materials that it deems necessary to adequately inform candidates of how to comply with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. §§ 2414 and 2415.

(2) The Office of the Secretary of State shall provide hyperlinks from its web page connecting to the disclosure form and other materials and resources required of the State Ethics Commission pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section.

Second: By adding a new section, to be Sec. 4a, to read as follows:

Sec. 4a. MANAGEMENT OF CANDIDATE DISCLOSURE FORMS;  
REPORT

On or before January 30, 2027, the State Ethics Commission and the Secretary of State's Office shall report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations their combined and shared recommendations on how to best manage candidate disclosure forms required under 17 V.S.A. §§ 2414 and 2415.

Third: By adding a new section, to be Sec. 4b, to read as follows:

Sec. 4b. 17 V.S.A. § 2901 is amended to read:

§ 2901. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

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(13) “Political committee” or “political action committee” means any formal or informal committee of one or more individuals or a corporation, labor organization, public interest group, or other entity, not including a political party, that accepts contributions ~~or~~ and makes expenditures in any amounts in any two-year general election cycle for the purpose of supporting or opposing one or more candidates, influencing an election, or advocating a position on a public question in any election, and includes a legislative leadership political committee.

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