



STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
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To: House Committee on Government Operations & Military Affairs

From: Paul Erlbaum, Chair, Vermont State Ethics Commission

Date: February 18, 2025

I write on behalf of the Vermont State Ethics Commissioners. At an emergency meeting of Ethics Commissioners on this day, February 18, 2025, by a unanimous vote, Ethics Commissioners agreed to submit this statement to the House Committee on Government and Military Affairs.


Vermont's Ethics Commissioners became concerned when they learned of the filing of H.1, which would exempt the Legislature from the current statutory requirement to "consult with the Commission regarding the application of the State Code of Ethics" whenever the Commission refers an ethics complaint to the House and Senate ethics panels.

The Ethics Commissioners' concerns are now heightened because it appears the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs has taken very little testimony as to its potential ramifications beyond just this bill.

Just today, the Commission received notice that H.1 may be voted on this week.

The Commissioners respectfully request that this vote be postponed beyond this week to allow further testimony by the Commission, experts, interested parties and the public. This will allow thoughtful consideration of H.1.

Respectfully

Signed by:  
  
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Paul Erlbaum (he, him)

Chair

Vermont State Ethics Commission

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