

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House
3 Bill No. 686 entitled “An act relating to expanding identification of certain
4 lobbying advertisements” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended
6 by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. § 261 is amended to read:

9 § 261. DEFINITIONS

10 As used in this chapter:

11 * * *

12 (9) “Lobby” or “lobbying” means:

13 (A) to communicate ~~orally or in writing~~ with any legislator or
14 administrative official for the purpose of influencing legislative or
15 administrative action;

16 (B) solicitation of others to influence legislative or administrative
17 action;

18 (C) an attempt to obtain the goodwill of a legislator or administrative
19 official by communications or activities with that legislator or administrative
20 official intended ultimately to influence legislative or administrative action; or

1 advertisement report with the Secretary of State if he, she, or it makes an
2 expenditure or expenditures:

3 (A) for any advertisement that is described in subsection (a) of this
4 section and that has a cost totaling \$1,000.00 or more; or

5 (B) for any advertising campaign that contains advertisements
6 described in subsection (a) of this section and that has a cost totaling \$1,000.00
7 or more.

8 (2) The report shall be made for each advertisement or advertising
9 campaign described in subdivision (1) of this subsection and shall identify:

10 (A) the lobbyist, lobbying firm, or lobbyist employer that made the
11 expenditure;

12 (B) the amount and date of the expenditure and to whom it was paid;
13 and

14 (C) a brief description of the advertisement or advertising campaign,
15 including:

16 (i) any enacted or introduced bill or any issue featured in the
17 advertisement or advertising campaign;

18 (ii) any specific person featured in the advertisement or
19 advertising campaign; and

1 (iii) whether the intent or content in the advertisement or
2 advertising campaign offers an opinion of support, opposition, or neutrality on
3 a bill, issue, or person.

4 (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, an advertisement
5 report need not be filed if the lobbyist, lobbying firm, or lobbyist employer has
6 already filed the necessary reports and disclosures required under 17 V.S.A.
7 chapter 61, subchapter 4, for the same advertisement or advertisement
8 campaign.

9 (c) Definitions. As used in this section:

10 (1) “Advertisement” means a notice that appears in any of the following
11 public media: radio, television, newspapers or other periodicals, or internet
12 websites.

13 (2) “Advertising campaign” means advertisements substantially similar
14 in nature, regardless of the media in which they are placed.

15 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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20 (Committee vote: _____)

1

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE