

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 291 entitled “An act relating to travel disclosures for legislators and
4 certain executive officers” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 1214 is added to read:

8 § 1214. TRAVEL DISCLOSURES

9 (a) Applicability.

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

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

18 (A) is fully paid by the member or executive officer, this State,
19 another state, or the federal government; or

20 (B) is of de minimis value, meaning having a value of \$50.00 or less
21 per source per occasion, provided that the aggregate market value of the

1 individual item received from any one source shall not exceed \$150.00 in a
2 calendar year.

3 (b) Contents and design of disclosure.

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

6 (A) the purpose of the travel;

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (i) the State;

6 (ii) the member’s or executive officer’s own person; or

7 (iii) any other sources, including associations, lobbyists, political
8 committees and parties, and individuals.

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

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

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

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

21 (d) Supplemental disclosure. A member of the General Assembly or an
22 executive officer shall file with the State Ethics Commission, or as otherwise

1 directed by law, a supplemental disclosure in accordance with section 1203 of
2 this title if a particular matter involving the payer or orchestrator of any
3 expense or reimbursement detailed in subsection (b) of this section comes
4 before the member or executive officer during the six months following such
5 acceptance or reimbursement.

6 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 1211 is amended to read:

7 § 1211. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS; ANNUAL DISCLOSURE

8 (a) Annually, each Executive officer and county officer shall file with the
9 State Ethics Commission a disclosure form that contains the following
10 information in regard to the previous 12 months:

11 (1) each source, but not amount, of personal income of the officer and of
12 the officer's spouse or domestic partner, and of the officer together with the
13 officer's spouse or domestic partner, that totals more than \$5,000.00,
14 including:

15 (A) the officer's employer or business name and address; and

16 (B) if self-employed, a description of the nature of the self-
17 employment, including the names of any clients whose principal business
18 activities are regulated by or that have a contract with any municipal or State
19 office, department, or agency, provided that this information is known to the
20 candidate officer or the candidate's officer's domestic partner and that the
21 disclosed information is not confidential information;

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 * * *

21 (e) Meetings.

22 (1) Meetings of the Commission:

