

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 298 entitled “An act relating to creating the Vermont Voting Rights
4 Act” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that
5 the Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment with further proposal
6 of amendment as follows:

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

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

11 Through May 30, 2027:

12 (1) The State Ethics Commission shall provide informational resources
13 to candidates and answer candidates’ questions regarding the requirements of
14 17 V.S.A. § 2414, how to accurately complete and submit the candidate
15 disclosure form, and the penalties for failing to properly file the disclosure
16 form pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2415. The Commission shall make available on
17 its web page the disclosure form, prepared responses to frequently asked
18 questions, and any informational resources and materials that it deems
19 necessary to adequately inform candidates of how to comply with the
20 provisions of 17 V.S.A. §§ 2414 and 2415.

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

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

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

7 REPORT

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

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

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

16 § 2901. DEFINITIONS

17 As used in this chapter:

18 * * *

19 (13) “Political committee” or “political action committee” means any formal or
20 informal committee of one or more individuals or a corporation, labor
21 organization, public interest group, or other entity, not including a political

1 party, that accepts contributions ~~or~~ and makes expenditures in any amounts in
2 any two-year general election cycle for the purpose of supporting or opposing
3 one or more candidates, influencing an election, or advocating a position on a
4 public question in any election, and includes a legislative leadership political
5 committee.

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