

1 S.131

2 Introduced by Senators Sirotkin and Lyons

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Business entities; disclosure; campaign finance expenditures

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require certain  
7 business entities with more than 35 shareholders, members, or partners to  
8 disclose campaign finance expenditures of \$100.00 or more. A disclosure  
9 would need to be made within 48 hours of such an expenditure and be made by  
10 e-mail to each shareholder, member, or partner for whom the business entity  
11 has an e-mail address, and on the business entity's website, if it maintains one.

12 An act relating to disclosure of a business's campaign finance expenditures

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

14 Sec. 1. PURPOSE AND INTENT

15 The purpose and intent of this act is to provide an investor with timely  
16 information regarding the political candidates or causes that are being  
17 supported by the business in which he or she has an ownership interest.

1 Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2974 is added to read:

2 § 2974. SPECIFIC DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN  
3 BUSINESS ENTITIES

4 (a)(1) Within 48 hours of making an expenditure of \$100.00 or more, the  
5 business entities set forth in subsection (b) of this section shall provide notice  
6 of the expenditure:

7 (A) by e-mail to each owner for whom the business entity has an  
8 e-mail address; and

9 (B) on the entity's website, if the entity maintains a website.

10 (2) The notice required by this subsection shall include the date, amount,  
11 recipient, and purpose of the expenditure.

12 (b) The following business entities with more than 35 owners are subject to  
13 the provisions of subsection (a) of this section:

14 (1) a partnership or a limited liability company organized under Title 11  
15 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated;

16 (2) a business corporation organized under Title 11A of the Vermont  
17 Statutes Annotated, except for those organized under 11A V.S.A. chapter 20  
18 (close corporations);

19 (3) a nonprofit corporation organized under Title 11B of the Vermont  
20 Statutes Annotated; and

1           (4) a mutual benefit enterprise organized under Title 11C of the  
2           Vermont Statutes Annotated.

3           (c) As used in this section, “owner” means a person entitled to vote on an  
4           action by a business entity determined by the relevant law governing the type  
5           of entity and by the operating documents of the entity.

6           Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

7           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.