

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 198 entitled “An act relating to an enforceable State Code of Ethics”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. PURPOSE; INTENT

8 (a) The purpose of this act is to require the State Ethics Commission to
9 propose to the General Assembly a State Code of Ethics for statutory
10 enactment and options for enforcing and implementing that Code.

11 (b) The General Assembly intends to consider the Commission’s proposal
12 and enact into law an enforceable Code during the 2021–2022 biennium.

13 Sec. 2. STATE ETHICS COMMISSION; PROPOSAL

14 (a) On or before November 15, 2020, the State Ethics Commission shall
15 submit to the Senate and House Committees on Government Operations:

16 (1) a proposed State Code of Ethics for statutory enactment that would
17 apply to the Executive Branch and to the Legislative Branch for non-core
18 legislative duties; and

19 (2) options for enforcement and implementation of that proposed State
20 Code of Ethics.

1 (b) The State Ethics Commission shall seek input from the Executive and
2 Legislative Branches, advocacy groups, and the public prior to submitting its
3 recommendations described in subsection (a) of this section.

4 Sec. 3. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 79, Sec. 13 is amended to read:

5 Sec. 13. STATE ETHICS COMMISSION FUNDING SOURCE

6 SURCHARGE; REPEAL

7 (a) Surcharge.

8 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of 3 V.S.A. § 2283(c) setting forth
9 the purpose and rate of charges collected in the Human Resource Services
10 Internal Service Fund, in fiscal year 2018 and thereafter, a surcharge of up to
11 2.3 percent, but no greater than the cost of the activities of the State Ethics
12 Commission set forth in Sec. 7 of this act, on the per-position portion of the
13 charges authorized in 3 V.S.A. § 2283(c)(2) shall be assessed to all Executive
14 Branch agencies, departments, and offices and shall be paid by all assessed
15 entities solely with State funds.

16 (2) The amount collected shall be accounted for within the Human
17 Resource Services Internal Service Fund and used solely for the purposes of
18 funding the activities of the State Ethics Commission set forth in Sec. 7 of
19 this act.

20 (b) Repeal. This section shall be repealed on ~~June 30, 2020~~ July 1, 2021.

1 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on passage.

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9 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE