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Lt. Governor Zuckerman Supports Vermont Code of Ethics Statute

MONTPELIER: Yesterday the Vermont State Ethics Commission released a draft code of ethics for the state of Vermont. Vermont is one of the only states without a statutory ethics code to define ethical guidelines for elected officials and office holders.

“I am in complete support of adoption of a statutory Code of Ethics,” said Lt. Governor Zuckerman. “A statutory code of ethics provides clear guidance for policy makers and the tools for the public to hold them accountable for their actions.”

Vermont has consistently been ranked among the lowest of the states because of lack of clear guidelines and enforcement protocol. The proposed Vermont Code of Ethics provides clarity and guidance that is required for Vermonters to be assured elected officials are free of conflict of interest. The proposed document outlines multiple ways elected officials might be influenced and a process for disclosing conflicts.

“The code of ethics statute that has been drafted by the Ethics Commission is required to ensure transparency of action,” said Lt. Governor Zuckerman. “Even the appearance of conflict of interest undermines the public’s faith in our government. I encourage the public to review the proposed guidelines and share their comments with the Ethics Commission.”

The Vermont Ethics Commission has released a draft of the proposed statute on [their website](#) and are currently accepting public comment on the proposal. On Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. the Ethics Commission will host an online public hearing to take additional comment.

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