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H.487

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington, Burke of
Brattleboro, Ode of Burlington, Pajala of Londonderry, and
Small of Winooski

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Executive; governmental ethics; State Ethics Commission

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to introduce new
processes to handle allegations and occurrences of ethical misconduct by
Executive Branch officials. If an Executive Branch official is accused of
ethical misconduct, such as discrimination, sexual harassment, retaliation, or
conflicts of interest, the bill would allow the Vermont State Ethics
Commission to receive complaints, initiate investigations and fact-finding,
appoint special counsel and make referrals to outside investigators, hold
hearings, and recommend actions to be taken, as permitted under the Vermont
Constitution, including facilitated mediation, additional training and education,
referrals to counseling and wellness support, or other remedial actions. The
bill would require the State Ethics Commission’s processes to consider the
degree of misconduct, timelines, and the privacy, rights, and responsibility of
the parties.

- 1 An act relating to Executive Branch officials' ethical misconduct
- 2 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
- 3 (TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)