

1 H.262

2 Introduced by Representatives Condon of Colchester, Batchelor of Derby,  
3 Bouchard of Colchester, Browning of Arlington, Canfield of  
4 Fair Haven, Clark of Vergennes, Fagan of Rutland City, Hubert  
5 of Milton, Moran of Wardsboro, Myers of Essex, Stevens of  
6 Shoreham, Waite-Simpson of Essex and Wilson of Manchester

7 Referred to Committee on

8 Date:

9 Subject: Campaign finance; robotic telephone calls; prohibition

10 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to prohibit the use of robotic  
11 telephone calls that support or oppose a candidate for elected office.

12 An act relating to prohibiting the use of robotic telephone calls that support  
13 or oppose a candidate for elected office

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

15 Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2891 is amended to read:

16 § 2891. DEFINITIONS

17 As used in this chapter, “electioneering communication” means any  
18 communication, including communications published in any newspaper or  
19 periodical or broadcast on radio or television or over any public address  
20 system, placed on any billboards, outdoor facilities, buttons or printed material

1 attached to motor vehicles, window displays, posters, cards, pamphlets,  
2 leaflets, flyers, or other circulars, or in any direct mailing, ~~robotic phone calls,~~  
3 or mass e-mails that refers to a clearly identified candidate for office and that  
4 promotes or supports a candidate for that office, or attacks or opposes a  
5 candidate for that office, regardless of whether the communication expressly  
6 advocates a vote for or against a candidate.

7 Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2894 is added to read:

8 § 2894. USE OF ROBOTIC TELEPHONE CALLS; PROHIBITION

9 An electioneering communication shall not be made by robotic telephone  
10 call.

11 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on passage.