

No. 162. An act relating to using Australian ballot for municipal meetings in the year 2021.

(S.354)

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

Sec. 1. MUNICIPAL MEETINGS IN THE YEAR 2021; AUSTRALIAN
BALLOT AUTHORITY

(a)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2680(a) and 16 V.S.A. § 711e that require the voters of a municipality to vote to apply the provisions of the Australian ballot system to the annual or special meeting of the municipality, in the year 2021, any municipality may apply the Australian ballot system to any or all of its municipal meetings held in the year 2021 by vote of its legislative body.

(2) Notwithstanding 17 V.S.A. § 2681(b) or any other provision of law to the contrary, a person shall not be required to collect voter signatures in order to have the person's name placed on the ballot as a candidate for a local election that is held at a 2021 municipal meeting.

(b) The Secretary of State may waive statutory deadlines or other statutory provisions, or provisions set forth in a school district's articles of agreement, related to a municipal election as necessary in order for a municipality to apply the Australian ballot system to its meeting in accordance with subsection (a) of this section. This waiver authority applies to statutory provisions set forth in a municipal charter or provisions set forth in a school district's articles of agreement if the waiver is requested by that municipality.

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Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Date Governor signed bill: October 5, 2020