1   S.348

2   Introduced by Committee on Government Operations

3   Date:

4   Subject: Elections; 2020 elections; Secretary of State; temporary elections

5   procedures

6   Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: In response to COVID-19, this bill

7   proposes to amend 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 92, Sec. 3 to authorize the

8   Secretary of State, in consultation with the Governor, to order or permit

9   appropriate elections procedures for the purpose of protecting the health,

10   safety, and welfare of voters, elections workers, and candidates in carrying out

11   elections in the year 2020.

12   An act relating to temporary elections procedures in the year 2020

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

14   Sec. 1. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 92, Sec. 3 is amended to read:

15   Sec. 3. ELECTIONS IN THE YEAR 2020; SECRETARY OF STATE;

16   GOVERNOR; TEMPORARY ELECTIONS PROCEDURES

17   (a) In the year 2020, the Secretary of State is authorized, in consultation

18   and agreement with the Governor, to order or permit, as applicable, appropriate

19   elections procedures for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and

1   welfare of voters, elections workers, and candidates in carrying out elections,

2   including:

3   (1) requiring mail balloting by requiring town clerks to send ballots by

4   mail to all registered voters;

5   (2) creating early or mail ballot collection stations;

6   (3) permitting municipal clerks to process and begin counting ballots in

7   a 30-day window preceding the day of an election;

8   (4) permitting drive-up, car window collection of ballots by election

9   officials;

10   (5) extending the time for municipal clerks to process and count ballots;

11   and

12   (6) extending voting hours on the day of an election.

13   (b) For any temporary elections procedure the Secretary of State orders or

14   permits under this section, the Secretary shall adopt any necessary

15   corresponding procedures that ensure the public can monitor polling places and

16   the counting of votes.

17   Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18   This act shall take effect on passage.