1   TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2   The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate

3   Bill No. 354 entitled "An act relating to emergency provisions for the

4   operation of government" respectfully reports that it has considered the same

5   and recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended

6   by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the

7   following:

8   Sec. 1. TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETINGS IN THE YEAR

9   2021; AUSTRALIAN BALLOT AUTHORITY

10   (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2680(a) and 16 V.S.A.

11   § 711e that require the voters of a town or school district to vote to apply the

12   provisions of the Australian ballot system to the annual or special meeting of

13   the municipality, in the year 2021, a town or school district may apply the

14   Australian ballot system to any or all of its annual and special meetings held in

15   the year 2021 by vote of its legislative body.

16   (b) The Secretary of State may waive statutory deadlines or other statutory

17   provisions, or provisions set forth in a school district's articles of agreement,

18   related to a municipal election as necessary in order for a municipality to apply

19   the Australian ballot system to its meeting in accordance with subsection (a) of

20   this section. This waiver authority applies to statutory provisions set forth in a

21   municipal charter or provisions set forth in a school district's articles of

1   agreement if the waiver is requested by that municipality.

2   (c) As used in this section, "school district" means a school district as

3   defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(11) or a regional career technical center school

4   district as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 1571.

5   Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

6   This act shall take effect on passage.

7   and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: "An act

8   relating to using Australian ballot for town and school district meetings in the

9   year 2021"

10

11

12   (Committee vote: _____)

13   _____

14   Representative _____

15   FOR THE COMMITTEE