

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. MUNICIPAL MEETINGS IN THE YEAR 2021; AUSTRALIAN  
9 BALLOT AUTHORITY

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

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

20 (b) The Secretary of State may waive statutory deadlines or other statutory  
21 provisions, or provisions set forth in a school district’s articles of agreement,

1 related to a municipal election as necessary in order for a municipality to apply  
2 the Australian ballot system to its meeting in accordance with subsection (a) of  
3 this section. This waiver authority applies to statutory provisions set forth in a  
4 municipal charter or provisions set forth in a school district’s articles of  
5 agreement if the waiver is requested by that municipality.

6 (c) As used in this section, “school district” means a school district as  
7 defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(11) or a regional career technical center school  
8 district as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 1571.

9 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on passage.

11 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act  
12 relating to using Australian ballot for municipal meetings in the year 2021”

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14

15 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

16 \_\_\_\_\_

17 Representative \_\_\_\_\_

18 FOR THE COMMITTEE