1	S.15
2	Representative Toof of St. Albans Town moves that the bill be amended by
3	striking out Sec. 3, 17 V.S.A. § 2680, in its entirety and inserting in lieu
4	thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:
5	Sec. 3. 17 V.S.A. § 2680 is amended to read:
6	§ 2680. AUSTRALIAN BALLOT SYSTEM; GENERAL
7	(a) Application. Unless specifically required by statute, the provisions of
8	the Australian ballot system shall not apply to the annual or special meeting of
9	a municipality unless that municipality, at its annual meeting or at a special
10	meeting called for that purpose, votes to have them apply.
11	* * *
12	(f) Presiding officer. The presiding officer for any election or part of an
13	election using the Australian ballot system shall be the town clerk or as
13 14	election using the Australian ballot system shall be the town clerk or as otherwise provided in section 2452 of this title.
14	otherwise provided in section 2452 of this title.
14 15	otherwise provided in section 2452 of this title. (g) Early and absentee voting.
14 15 16	otherwise provided in section 2452 of this title. (g) Early and absentee voting. (1) Early and absentee voting for elections held on or before January 1,
14 15 16 17	otherwise provided in section 2452 of this title. (g) Early and absentee voting. (1) Early and absentee voting for elections held on or before January 1, 2024. At the time the Australian ballots for an election held on or before

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1	(A) The legislative body of a town, city, or village may vote to mail a
2	ballot to all active registered voters in the town, city, or village.
3	(B) A school board may, after receiving the approval of the
4	legislative body of each member town in the district, vote to mail its annual
5	meeting ballot to all active registered voters in the district. In such case, the
6	town clerk and election officials in the member towns shall be responsible for
7	the mailing of the ballots, but all costs associated with the mailing of ballots
8	shall be borne by the school district.
9	(C) Ballots shall be mailed not less than 20 days before the election
10	or as soon as they are available.
11	(D) The mailing of ballots shall be conducted to the extent
12	practicable in accordance with chapter 51, subchapter 6 of this title.
13	(2) Early and absentee voting for elections held after January 1, 2024.
14	At the time the Australian ballots for an election held after January 1, 2024 are
15	available, which shall be not less than 20 days before the election, early and
16	absentee voting shall be permitted in accordance with chapter 51, subchapter 6
17	of this title.
18	(A) The municipal legislative body shall require the municipal clerk
19	to mail to all of the active registered voters in the municipality the Australian
20	ballot to be used at the annual municipal or special municipal meeting.

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1	(B) Ballots shall be mailed not less than 20 days before the election
2	or as soon as they are available.
3	(C) The mailing of ballots shall be conducted to the extent
4	practicable in accordance with chapter 51, subchapter 6 of this title.
5	(g)(h) Hearing.
6	(1) Whenever a municipality has voted to adopt the Australian ballot
7	system of voting on any public question or budget, except the budget revote as
8	provided in subsection (c) of this section, the legislative body shall hold a
9	public informational hearing on the question by posting warnings at least
10	10 days in advance of the hearing in at least two public places within the
11	municipality and in the town clerk's office.
12	* * *