

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 172 entitled “An act relating to authorizing alternative procedures for
4 2022 annual municipal meetings in response to COVID-19” respectfully
5 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be
6 amended as follows:

7 First: In Sec. 1, (legislative findings, intent, and purpose), in subsection (a),
8 by striking out subdivision (2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new
9 subdivision (2) to read:

10 (2) In 2021, the General Assembly enacted 2021 Acts and Resolves
11 No. 60 to authorize the use of outdoor polling places and the mailing of ballots
12 to all active registered voters in municipalities that use the Australian ballot
13 system for local elections. However, the General Assembly finds that COVID-
14 19 concerns persist regarding 2022 annual municipal meetings because many
15 municipalities want to continue their custom of conducting annual meetings
16 using floor votes.

17 Second: In Sec. 2, (annual meetings in the year 2022; alternative
18 procedures), immediately following subsection (e), by inserting a subsection
19 (f) to read:

20 (f) The provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2680(e) shall apply to any municipality
21 that votes to hold the 2022 annual municipal meeting by Australian ballot

1 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. A municipality shall not warn any
2 question on whether the municipality shall adopt the Australian ballot method
3 of voting on a permanent basis, for any or all articles, for any subsequent
4 municipal elections.

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6 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE