TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Vermont entitled “Proposal 1” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the proposal be amended by striking out the proposal in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

PROPOSAL 1

Sec. 1. PURPOSE

This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to allow the General Assembly to establish by law qualifications for individuals to be elected to and hold certain county offices and to be removed from office for failure to meet or to maintain those qualifications. Further, this proposal would eliminate reference to the office of High Bailiff.

Sec. 2. Section 50 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

§ 50. ELECTION OF ASSISTANT JUDGES, SHERIFFS, AND STATE’S ATTORNEYS

The Assistant Judges shall be elected by the voters of their respective districts as established by law. Their judicial functions shall be established by law. Their term of office shall be four years and shall commence on the first day of February next after their election. The General Assembly may establish

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by law qualifications for the election to and holding of such office and
procedures for removal from such office for failure to meet or to maintain the
required qualifications.

Sheriffs shall be elected by the voters of their respective districts as
established by law. Their term of office shall be four years and shall
commence on the first day of February next after their election. The General
Assembly may establish by law qualifications for the election to and holding of
such office and procedures for removal from such office for failure to meet or
to maintain the required qualifications.

State’s Attorneys shall be elected by the voters of their respective districts
as established by law. Their term of office shall be four years and shall
commence on the first day of February next after their election. The General
Assembly may establish by law qualifications for the election to and holding of
such office and procedures for removal from such office for failure to meet or
to maintain the required qualifications.

Sec. 3. Section 51 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to
read:

§ 51. ELECTION OF JUDGES OF PROBATE

Judges of Probate shall be elected by the voters of their respective districts
as established by law. The General Assembly may establish by law
qualifications for the election to and holding of such office and procedures for
removal from such office for failure to meet or to maintain the required qualifications. Their term of office shall be four years and shall commence on the first day of February next after their election.

Sec. 4. Section 43 of Chapter II of the Vermont Constitution is amended to read:

The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Auditor of Accounts, Senators, Town Representatives, Assistant Judges of the County Court, Sheriffs, High Bailiffs, State’s Attorneys, Judges of Probate and Justices of the Peace, shall be elected biennially on the first Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, beginning in A.D. 1914.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

The amendments set forth in Secs. 2 through 4 shall become a part of the Constitution of the State of Vermont on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November 2026 when ratified and adopted by the people of this State in accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 32.

(Committee vote: ____________)

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Senator _________________

FOR THE COMMITTEE