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This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

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**Act No. 75 (S.23). An act relating to the use of synthetic media in elections**

**Subjects: Elections; offenses against the purity of elections; synthetic media**

This act requires that a person include a specific disclosure when publishing or distributing deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media within 90 days before an election in Vermont. Deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media is media that appears to a reasonable person to be a realistic representation of a political candidate that injures the reputation of a political candidate or of an individual that attempts to unduly influence the outcome of an election by providing materially false information.

There are exceptions to the disclosure requirement, including radio or television broadcasting stations that broadcast the deceptive media as part of a bona fide newscast or if the deceptive media constitutes satire or parody.

The penalty for knowingly violating this law is not more than \$1,000.00, with higher fines if it was done with the intent to cause bodily harm. A candidate whose appearance was misrepresented through the use of deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media may seek injunctive or other equitable relief.

Effective Date: March 5, 2026