

1 H.474

2 An act relating to miscellaneous changes to election law

3 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

4 Sec. 1. [Deleted.]

5 Sec. 2. [Deleted.]

6 Sec. 3. [Deleted.]

7 \* \* \* One-Bite Candidacy \* \* \*

8 Sec. 4. 17 V.S.A. § 2381 is amended to read:

9 § 2381. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER

10 \* \* \*

11 (c) In no event shall a candidate who loses a major party primary be  
12 nominated to appear on the general election ballot pursuant to this subchapter  
13 by a committee of any party other than the party for which the candidate  
14 appeared on the primary ballot.

15 Sec. 5. 17 V.S.A. § 2401 is amended to read:

16 § 2401. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER

17 (a) A person may be nominated and have ~~his or her~~ the person's name  
18 printed on the general election ballot for any office by filing a consent similar  
19 in form to the consent prescribed by section 2361 of this title and a statement  
20 of nomination with the Secretary of State. In the case of a nomination for  
21 justice of the peace, the consent form and statement of nomination shall be  
22 filed with the town clerk.

1        (b) A candidate who loses a major party primary for any office shall not  
2        appear on the general election ballot as an independent candidate for the same  
3        office for which the candidate lost in the primary election.

4        Sec. 6. [Deleted.]

5                \* \* \* Miscellaneous Changes to Electronic Ballot Delivery Law \* \* \*

6        Sec. 7. 17 V.S.A. § 2539 is amended to read:

7        § 2539. DELIVERY OF EARLY VOTER ABSENTEE BALLOTS

8                                \* \* \*

9        (c) Military or overseas voters.

10                (1) Early voter absentee ballots for military or overseas voters shall be  
11        sent air mail, first class, postpaid when such service is available, or they may  
12        be electronically delivered when requested by the voter.

13                (2)(A) The town clerk's office shall be open on the 46th day before any  
14        election that includes a federal office and the town clerk shall send on or  
15        before that day all absentee ballots to any military or overseas voter who  
16        requested an early voter absentee ballot on or before that day.

17                (B) On that day the town clerk shall complete any reporting  
18        requirements and any other responsibilities regarding the mailing of early voter  
19        absentee ballots to military or overseas voters, as directed by the Secretary of  
20        State.

(d) Voters who participate in the Secretary of State's Address Confidentiality Program. In the case of persons who participate in the address confidentiality program administered by the Secretary of State set forth in 15 V.S.A. § 1152, if the voter or authorized person requests in the application or otherwise that early voter absentee ballots be mailed or electronically delivered, the town clerk shall mail or electronically deliver the ballots.

\* \* \* Write-in Candidate Registration and Minimum Thresholds in Primary Elections \* \* \*

## § 2370. WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

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1 of State's office in an electronic manner approved by the Secretary. The  
2 Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate town clerks of any filings made  
3 in accordance with this subsection as soon as practicable.

4 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, a write-in  
5 candidate is not required to file if:

6 (A) the candidate has already filed a consent to the printing of the  
7 candidate's name on the ballot for a major political party, as provided in  
8 section 2361, 2385, or 2402 of this title; or

9 (B) no candidate is printed on the ballot, or if a candidate whose  
10 name is printed on the ballot dies or is otherwise disqualified prior to 7:00 p.m.  
11 on the election day.

12 (b) A write-in candidate shall not qualify as a primary winner unless ~~he or~~  
13 ~~she~~ the candidate receives at least one-half the number of votes as the number  
14 of signatures required for ~~his or her~~ the candidate's office on a primary  
15 petition, except that if a write-in candidate receives more votes than a  
16 candidate whose name is printed on the ballot, ~~he or she may~~ the write-in  
17 candidate shall qualify as a primary winner.

18 ~~(b)~~(c) The Before becoming the party's candidate in the general election,  
19 the write-in candidate who qualifies as a primary winner under this section  
20 must;



1 Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate town clerks of any filings made  
2 in accordance with this subsection (b) as soon as practicable.

3 (B) Notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this subdivision (b)(5), a  
4 write-in candidate is not required to file if:

5 (i) the candidate has already filed a consent to the printing of  
6 the candidate's name on the ballot for a major political party, as provided in  
7 section 2361, 2385, or 2402 of this title; or

8 (ii) no candidate is printed on the ballot, or if a candidate  
9 whose name is printed on the ballot dies or is otherwise disqualified prior to  
10 7:00 p.m. on the election day.

11 \* \* \*

12 Sec. 11. 17 V.S.A. § 2587 is amended to read:

13 § 2587. RULES FOR COUNTING VOTES

14 \* \* \*

15 (e)(1) In the case of "write-in" votes, the act of writing in the name of a  
16 candidate, or pasting a label containing a candidate's name upon the ballot,  
17 without other indications of the voter's intent, shall constitute a vote for that  
18 candidate, even though the voter did not fill in the square or oval after the  
19 name.

20 (2) The election officials counting ballots and tallying results shall ~~list~~  
21 ~~every person who receives a "write-in" vote and the number of votes received.;~~

1           (A) count write-in votes:

2                 (i) for candidates who have filed in compliance with section 2370,  
3 2472, or 2702 of this title or who have filed a consent to the printing of the  
4 candidate's name on the ballot for a major political party, as provided in  
5 section 2361, 2385, or 2402 of this title; or

6                 (ii) for all candidates if no candidate is printed on the ballot, or if a  
7 candidate whose name is printed on the ballot dies or is otherwise disqualified  
8 prior to 7:00 p.m. on election day;

9           (B) ~~On each tally sheet, the counters shall~~ add together the names of  
10 candidates counted under subdivision (A) of this subdivision (e)(2) that are  
11 clearly the same person, even though a nickname or last name is used; and

12                 ~~(B) Names of fictitious or deceased persons shall not be listed and~~  
13 ~~shall be recorded on the tally sheet as a blank vote.~~

14           (C) record the name and vote totals on the tally sheet only of a write-  
15 in candidate having votes counted pursuant to subdivision (A) of this  
16 subdivision (e)(2) and list those candidates individually, and record all other  
17 write-in votes on the tally sheet as in aggregate as "other write-ins."

18           (3) Notwithstanding any contrary provisions in subdivision (2)(A) of  
19 this subsection, if the number of "other write-ins" for the same nomination or  
20 office equals or exceeds the number of votes cast for any candidate for the  
21 same nomination or office who appears to have been nominated or elected,

1 election officials shall record the name and vote totals on the tally sheet for all  
2 candidates for that nomination or office. If this result occurs in a multiple-  
3 municipality district, but one or more municipalities did not record the name  
4 and vote totals for all candidates, the Secretary of State, on the day after the  
5 election, shall order the town clerk to reconvene the board of civil authority.  
6 In the presence of at least two other election officials who are not members of  
7 the same political party, the clerk shall open the ballot containers, list all write-  
8 ins for this nomination or office individually, and record write-in votes for all  
9 candidates. The clerk shall then place the entire contents in containers, affix  
10 new seals, and transmit the new seal numbers.

11 \* \* \*

12 Sec. 12. 17 V.S.A. § 2702 is amended to read:

13 § 2702. NOMINATING PETITION

14 (a) The name of any person shall be printed upon the primary ballot as a  
15 candidate for nomination by any major political party if petitions signed by at  
16 least 1,000 voters in accordance with sections 2353, 2354, and 2358 of this  
17 title are filed with the Secretary of State, together with the written consent of  
18 the person to the printing of the person's name on the ballot.

19 (b) Petitions shall be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. on the 15th day of  
20 December preceding the primary election.

21 (c) The petition shall be in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State.



1 (d) A person's name shall not be listed as a candidate on the primary ballot  
2 of more than one party in the same election.

3 (e) Each petition shall be accompanied by a filing fee of \$2,000.00 to be  
4 paid to the Secretary of State. However, if the petition of a candidate is  
5 accompanied by the affidavit of the candidate, which shall be available for  
6 public inspection, that the candidate and the candidate's campaign committee  
7 are without sufficient funds to pay the filing fee, the Secretary of State shall  
8 waive all but \$300.00 of the payment of the filing fee by that candidate.

9 (f)(1) In order to have votes listed for a write-in candidate under section  
10 2587 of this title, not later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday preceding the  
11 election, a write-in candidate for nomination shall complete a form of the  
12 Secretary of State's design affirming that the candidate wants to have received  
13 votes for that office in every major political party's primary results listed under  
14 subdivision 2587(e)(3) of this title. The candidate shall file the form with  
15 either all town clerks within the candidate's applicable district or the Secretary  
16 of State's office in an electronic manner approved by the Secretary. The  
17 Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate town clerks of any filings made  
18 in accordance with this subsection as soon as practicable.

19 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, a write-in  
20 candidate is not required to file if:

1           (A) the candidate has already filed a consent to the printing of the  
2           candidate's name on the ballot for a major political party, as provided in  
3           section 2361, 2385, or 2402 of this title; or

4           (B) no candidate is printed on the ballot, or if a candidate whose  
5           name is printed on the ballot dies or is otherwise disqualified prior to 7:00 p.m.  
6           on the election day.

7                           \* \* \* Campaign Finance; Reporting Thresholds \* \* \*

8           Sec. 13. 17 V.S.A. § 2921 is amended to read:

9           § 2921. ~~CANDIDATES; REGISTRATION; CHECKING ACCOUNT;~~

10                   TREASURER CANDIDATES

11           (a)(1) Each candidate who ~~has made expenditures or accepted contributions~~  
12           ~~of \$500.00 or more in an election cycle~~ files a consent to the printing of the  
13           candidate's name on the ballot, as provided in section 2361, 2370, 2385, or  
14           2402 of this title, shall register with the Secretary of State ~~within 10 days of~~  
15           ~~reaching the \$500.00 threshold or on the date that the next report is required of~~  
16           ~~the candidate under this chapter, whichever occurs first,~~ prior to filing the  
17           consent stating ~~his or her~~ the candidate's full name and address; ~~the office the~~  
18           ~~candidate is seeking;~~ ~~the name and address of the bank in which the candidate~~  
19           ~~maintains his or her campaign checking account;~~ and the name and address of  
20           the treasurer responsible for maintaining the checking account. A candidate's  
21           treasurer may be the candidate or ~~his or her~~ the candidate's spouse.

(3) Each candidate who makes an expenditure shall file with the Secretary of State, at the time of making the first expenditure, the name and address of the bank in which the candidate maintains the campaign checking account.

Sec. 14. 17 V.S.A. § 2922 is amended to read:

(a)(1) Each political committee or independent expenditure-only political committee shall register with the Secretary of State within 10 days ~~of~~ after making expenditures of ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$500.00 or more ~~and~~ or accepting contributions of ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$500.00 or more, stating its full name and address; Committees that are not self-funded individuals shall also state the name and address of the bank in which it maintains its campaign checking account; and the name and address of the treasurer responsible for maintaining the checking account.

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1 (b) All expenditures by a political committee or an independent  
2 expenditure-only political committee shall be paid by either a credit card or a  
3 debit card, check, or other electronic transfer from the single campaign  
4 checking account in the bank designated by the ~~political~~ committee under  
5 subsection (a) of this section, or, if under \$250.00, the ~~political~~ committee may  
6 make the expenditure from cash from that campaign checking account if  
7 accompanied by a receipt, a copy of which shall be maintained by the ~~political~~  
8 committee for at least two years from the end of the two-year general election  
9 cycle in which the expenditure was made. A self-funded individual need not  
10 utilize a campaign checking account, but shall otherwise comply with this  
11 section. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the payment  
12 of fees required to be made from a separately held online account designated  
13 solely to collect campaign contributions made to the ~~political~~ committee.

14 (c) A political committee or an independent expenditure-only political  
15 committee whose principal place of business or whose treasurer is not located  
16 in this State shall file a statement with the Secretary of State designating a  
17 person who resides in this State upon whom may be served any process, notice,  
18 or demand required or permitted by law to be served upon the ~~political~~  
19 committee. This statement shall be filed at the same time as the registration  
20 required in subsection (a) of this section.

1       Sec. 15. 17 V.S.A. § 2964 is amended to read:

2       § 2964. CAMPAIGN REPORTS; CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICE,  
3               THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND COUNTY OFFICE;  
4               POLITICAL COMMITTEES; INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE-  
5               ONLY POLITICAL COMMITTEES; POLITICAL PARTIES

6           (a)(1) Each candidate for State office, the General Assembly, or a two-  
7       year-term county office who has rolled over any amount of surplus into ~~his or~~  
8       ~~her~~ the candidate's new campaign or who has made expenditures or accepted  
9       contributions of \$500.00 or more during the two-year general election cycle  
10      and, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, each political  
11      committee and independent expenditure-only political committee that has not  
12      filed a final report pursuant to subsection 2965(b) of this chapter, and each  
13      political party required to register under section 2923 of this chapter shall file  
14      with the Secretary of State campaign finance reports as follows:

15           (A) in the first year of the two-year general election cycle, on July 1;

16      and

17           (B) in the second year of the two-year general election cycle:

18               (i) on March 15;

19               (ii) on July 1 and August 1;

20               (iii) on September 1;

1 (iv) on October 1, October 15, and the Friday before the general  
2 election; and

3 (v) two weeks after the general election.

4 (2) Each candidate for a four-year-term county office who has rolled  
5 over any amount of surplus into ~~his or her~~ the candidate's new campaign or  
6 who has made expenditures or accepted contributions of \$500.00 or more  
7 during the four-year general election cycle shall file with the Secretary of State  
8 campaign finance reports as follows:

9 (A) in the first three years of the four-year general election cycle, on  
10 July 1; and

11 (B) in the fourth year of the four-year general election cycle:

12 (i) on March 15;

13 (ii) on July 1 and August 1;

14 (iii) on September 1;

15 (iv) on October 1, October 15, and the Friday before the general  
16 election; and

17 (v) two weeks after the general election.

18 (b)(1) A political committee, independent expenditure-only political  
19 committee, or a political party that has accepted contributions or made  
20 expenditures of ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$500.00 or more during the local election cycle for  
21 the purpose of influencing a local election or supporting or opposing one or

1 more candidates in a local election shall file with the Secretary of State  
2 campaign finance reports regarding that local election 30 days before, 10 days  
3 before, and two weeks after the local election.

4 \* \* \*

5 (c) ~~The failure of a candidate, political committee, or political party to file a~~  
6 ~~report under this section shall be deemed an affirmative statement that a report~~  
7 ~~is not required of the candidate, political committee, or political party under~~  
8 ~~this section~~ A candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only  
9 committee, or political party that is not otherwise required to file a report  
10 pursuant to this section shall file with the Secretary of State a report and  
11 affirmative statement that the candidate, political committee, independent  
12 expenditure-only committee, or political party has not either rolled over any  
13 amount of surplus into a new campaign or made expenditures or accepted  
14 contributions in the amounts specified in this section.

15 Sec. 16. REPEAL

16 17 V.S.A. § 2966 (reports by candidates not reaching monetary reporting  
17 threshold) is repealed.

18 Sec. 17. 17 V.S.A. § 2970 is amended to read:

19 § 2970. CAMPAIGN REPORTS; ~~OTHER ENTITIES~~; PUBLIC

20 QUESTIONS

1 (a) Any formal or informal political action committee ~~of two or more~~  
2 ~~individuals or a corporation, labor organization, public interest group, or other~~  
3 ~~entity, not including a political party, or independent expenditure-only political~~  
4 committee that makes expenditures of ~~\$1,000.00~~ \$500.00 or more during the  
5 election cycle for the purpose of advocating a position on a public question or  
6 influencing an election in any election shall file a report of its expenditures 30  
7 days before, 10 days before, and two weeks after the election with the  
8 Secretary of State.

9 \* \* \*

10 \* \* \* Campaign Finance; Independent Expenditure-Only

11 Political Committees \* \* \*

12 Sec. 17a. 17 V.S.A. § 2901 is amended to read:

13 § 2901. DEFINITIONS

14 As used in this chapter:

15 \* \* \*

16 (10) “Independent expenditure-only political committee” means ~~a political~~  
17 ~~committee that~~ any one or more individuals, or any corporation, labor  
18 organization, public interest group, or other entity, excluding a political party,  
19 that accepts contributions or makes expenditures in any amounts within any  
20 two-year general election cycle for the purpose of supporting or opposing  
21 candidates, influencing an election, or advocating for or against a public



1 question; conducts its activities entirely independent of candidates; does not  
2 give contributions to candidates, political committees, or political parties; does  
3 not make related expenditures; and is not closely related to a political party or  
4 to a political committee that makes contributions to candidates or makes  
5 related expenditures. “Independent expenditure-only political committee”  
6 includes any “self-funded individual,” meaning an individual who receives no  
7 contributions from any other source for the purpose of supporting or opposing  
8 candidates, influencing an election, or advocating for or against a public  
9 question.

10 \* \* \*

11 (13) “Political committee” or “political action committee” means any  
12 formal or informal committee of ~~two~~ one or more individuals or a corporation,  
13 labor organization, public interest group, or other entity, not including a  
14 political party, that accepts contributions of ~~\$1,000.00~~ or ~~more~~ and makes  
15 expenditures of ~~\$1,000.00 or more~~ in any amounts in any two-year general  
16 election cycle for the purpose of supporting or opposing one or more  
17 candidates, influencing an election, or advocating a position on a public  
18 question in any election, and includes ~~an independent expenditure-only~~  
19 ~~political committee and~~ a legislative leadership political committee.

20 \* \* \*

1 Sec. 17b. 17 V.S.A. § 2925 is amended to read:

2 § 2925. POLITICAL COMMITTEES; SURPLUS CAMPAIGN  
3 FUNDS

4 (a) A member of a political committee or an independent expenditure-only  
5 political committee that has surplus funds after all campaign debts have been  
6 paid shall not convert the surplus to personal use.

7 \* \* \*

8 Sec. 17c. 17 V.S.A. § 2945 is amended to read:

9 § 2945. ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS

10 (a) A candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only  
11 political committee, or political party accepts a contribution when the  
12 contribution is deposited in the candidate's, committee's, or party's campaign  
13 account or five business days after the candidate, committee, or party receives  
14 it, whichever comes first.

15 (b) A candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only  
16 political committee, or political party shall not accept a monetary contribution  
17 in excess of \$100.00 unless made by check, credit or debit card, or other  
18 electronic transfer.

19 Sec. 17d. 17 V.S.A. § 2962 is amended to read:

20 § 2962. REPORTS; GENERAL PROVISIONS

1 (a) Any report required to be submitted to the Secretary of State under this  
2 chapter shall contain the statement “I hereby certify that the information  
3 provided on all pages of this campaign finance disclosure report is true to the  
4 best of my knowledge, information, and belief” and places for the signature of  
5 the candidate or the treasurer of the candidate, political committee,  
6 independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party.

7 \* \* \*

8 Sec. 17e. 17 V.S.A. § 2965 is amended to read:

9 § 2965. FINAL REPORTS; ~~CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICE, THE~~  
10 ~~GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND COUNTY OFFICE; POLITICAL~~  
11 ~~COMMITTEES; POLITICAL PARTIES; END-OF-~~  
12 ~~CYCLE REPORTS FOR POLITICAL COMMITTEES AND~~  
13 ~~POLITICAL PARTIES~~

14 \* \* \*

15 (b)(1) At any time, but not later than December 15 following the general  
16 election, each political committee, independent expenditure-only political  
17 committee, or political party that has not filed a final report as set forth in  
18 subdivision (2) of this subsection shall file an end-of-cycle report that lists a  
19 complete accounting of all contributions and expenditures since the last report.

20 (2) At any time, a political committee, independent expenditure-only  
21 political committee, or a political party may file a “final report” that lists a

1 complete accounting of all contributions and expenditures since the last report  
2 and liquidation of surplus and that shall constitute the termination of its  
3 campaign activities.

4 Sec. 17f. 17 V.S.A. § 2972 is amended to read:

5 § 2972. IDENTIFICATION IN ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS

6 (a) An electioneering communication shall contain the name and mailing  
7 address of the person, candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-  
8 only political committee, or political party that paid for the communication.

9 The name and address shall appear prominently and in a manner such that a  
10 reasonable person would clearly understand by whom the expenditure has been  
11 made, except that:

12 (1) An audio electioneering communication paid for by a candidate does  
13 not need to contain the candidate's address.

14 (2) An electioneering communication paid for by a person acting as an  
15 agent or consultant on behalf of another person, candidate, political committee,  
16 independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party shall  
17 clearly designate the name and mailing address of the person, candidate,  
18 political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or  
19 political party on whose behalf the communication is published or broadcast.

20 \* \* \*

1 (c)(1) In addition to the identification requirements in subsections (a) and  
2 (b) of this section, an electioneering communication paid for by or on behalf of  
3 a political committee, independent expenditure-only political committee, or  
4 political party shall contain the name of any contributor who contributed more  
5 than 25 percent of all contributions and more than \$2,000.00 to that committee  
6 or party since the beginning of the two-year general election cycle in which the  
7 electioneering communication was made to the date on which the expenditure  
8 for the electioneering communication was made.

9 (2) For the purposes of this subsection, a ~~political~~ committee or political  
10 party shall be treated as having made an expenditure if the committee or party  
11 or person acting on behalf of the committee or party has executed a contract to  
12 make the expenditure.

13 \* \* \*

14 Sec. 17g. 17 V.S.A. § 2973 is amended to read:

15 § 2973. SPECIFIC IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RADIO,

16 TELEVISION, OR INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

17 (a) In addition to the identification requirements set forth in section 2972 of  
18 this subchapter, a person, candidate, political committee, independent  
19 expenditure-only political committee, or political party that makes an  
20 expenditure for an electioneering communication shall include in any  
21 communication that is transmitted through radio, television, or online video, in

1 a clearly spoken manner, an audio statement of the name and title of the person  
2 who paid for the communication and that the person paid for the  
3 communication.

4 (b) If the person who paid for the communication is not an individual, the  
5 audio statement required by this section shall include the name of that person  
6 and the name and title of the treasurer in the case of a political committee,  
7 independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party or the  
8 principal officer in the case of any other person that is not an individual.

9 \* \* \* Audits of Voter Checklists and District Boundaries \* \* \*

10 Sec. 18. AUDITS OF VOTER CHECKLISTS AND DISTRICT  
11 BOUNDARIES

12 (a) On or before September 15, 2025, local boards of civil authority and  
13 town clerks whose municipal boundaries are divided for the purpose of  
14 Representative districts and Senatorial districts shall audit their voter checklists  
15 to ensure that those checklists accurately correspond to the prescribed district  
16 boundaries.

17 (b) On or before October 1, 2025, each town clerk described in subsection  
18 (a) of this section shall provide a written summary of the audit to the Elections  
19 Division of the Secretary of State's office.

20 (c) On or before November 15, 2025, the Secretary shall submit a written  
21 report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military

1 Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations with the findings  
2 of the audits.

3 (d) Within two weeks after passage of this act, the Elections Division of the  
4 Secretary of State's office shall notify each town clerk and board of civil  
5 authority described in subsection (a) of this section that they must perform the  
6 audits.

7 (e) The Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office shall provide  
8 support and training to each town clerk and board of civil authority described  
9 in subsection (a) of this section.

10 \* \* \* Deadline Modifications and Miscellaneous Clarifications \* \* \*

11 Sec. 20. 17 V.S.A. § 1971 is amended to read:

12 § 1971. CASTING MORE THAN ONE BALLOT

13 A legal voter who knowingly ~~casts more than one ballot at any one time of~~  
14 ~~balloting~~ votes more than once in any election held in this State, or who votes  
15 in both this State and another state or territory in the same or equivalent  
16 election for the same office shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 if the  
17 offense is committed at a primary or general election, and not more than  
18 \$100.00 if committed at a local election.

19 Sec. 21. REPEAL

20 17 V.S.A. § 1973 (voting in more than one place) is repealed.





1 Sec. 24. [Deleted.]

2 Sec. 25. 17 V.S.A. § 2413 is amended to read:

3 § 2413. NOMINATION OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

4 (a)(1) The party members in each town, on or before the third Monday in  
5 July before each primary election, upon the call of the town committee, may  
6 meet in caucus and nominate candidates for justice of the peace.

7 \* \* \*

8 (e) For any nomination made under this section, the chair and secretary of  
9 the committee or caucus shall file the statement required by section 2385 of  
10 this title by 5:00 p.m. on the ~~third day following~~ fourth Monday in July before  
11 the primary election.

12 Sec. 26. 17 V.S.A. § 2402 is amended to read:

13 § 2402. REQUISITES OF STATEMENT

14 \* \* \*

15 (d)(1) A statement of nomination and a completed and signed consent form  
16 shall be filed:

17 \* \* \*

18 (B) in the case of nomination for justice of the peace, not earlier than  
19 the fourth Monday in April and not later than 5:00 p.m. on the third ~~day~~  
20 ~~following the~~ Monday in July before each primary election; or

21 \* \* \*

1     Sec. 27. 17 V.S.A. § 2546 is amended to read:

2     § 2546. RECEIPT OF BALLOTS BY CLERK; VOTER STATUS;  
3             OPPORTUNITY TO CURE; PROCESSING ABSENTEE  
4             BALLOTS

5             (a) Town clerk; process generally. Beginning ~~30~~ 45 days before the  
6     opening of the polls on election day, upon receipt of a mailing envelope  
7     containing ballots returned by a voter, the town clerk shall, within three  
8     business days or on the next day the office is open for business, whichever is  
9     later, direct two election officials working together to do all of the following:

10                             \* \* \*

11     Sec. 28. 17 V.S.A. § 2703 is amended to read:

12     § 2703. EXAMINING PETITIONS; SUPPLEMENTARY PETITIONS

13             The Secretary of State shall examine the petitions and ascertain whether  
14     they conform to the provisions of this chapter, and sections 2353, 2354, and  
15     2358 of this title. If found not to conform, ~~he or she~~ the Secretary shall state in  
16     writing why a particular petition cannot be accepted, and within ~~72 hours~~ two  
17     business days from receipt ~~he or she~~ the Secretary shall return it to the  
18     candidate in whose behalf it was filed. In such case, supplementary petitions  
19     may be filed not later than 10 days after the deadline for filing petitions.

20     However, supplementary petitions shall not be accepted if petitions with the

1 signatures of at least 1,000 persons were not filed by the deadline for filing  
2 petitions set forth in section 2702 of this chapter.

3 \* \* \* Local Elections; Open Meeting Law Not Applicable to Annual  
4 Meetings \* \* \*

5 Sec. 29. 1 V.S.A. § 310 is amended to read:

6 § 310. DEFINITIONS

7 As used in this subchapter:

8 \* \* \*

9 (5)(A) “Meeting” means a gathering of a quorum of the members of a  
10 public body for the purpose of discussing the business of the public body or for  
11 the purpose of taking action.

12 \* \* \*

13 (E) “Meeting” does not mean a gathering of the voters of a  
14 municipality for purposes of conducting an annual or special municipal  
15 meeting.

16 (6) “Public body” means any board, council, or commission of the State  
17 or one or more of its political subdivisions, any board, council, or commission  
18 of any agency, authority, or instrumentality of the State or one or more of its  
19 political subdivisions, or any committee or subcommittee of any of the  
20 foregoing boards, councils, or commissions, except that “public body” does not  
21 include;



1 designating that ~~he or she~~ the applicant declines to use the application as a  
2 voter registration application.

3 (b)(1) A motor vehicle driver's license or nondriver identification card  
4 application shall provide and request the following information and shall be in  
5 the form approved by the Secretary of State:

6 (A) The applicant's citizenship.

7 (B) The applicant's place and date of birth.

8 (C) The applicant's town of legal residence.

9 (D) The applicant's E-911 street address or a description of the  
10 physical location of the applicant's residence. The description must contain  
11 sufficient information so that the town clerk can determine whether the  
12 applicant is a resident of the town.

13 (E) The voter's oath.

14 (F) The applicant's ~~e-mail~~ email address and phone number, which  
15 shall be optional to provide.

16 \* \* \*

17 (d)(1) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall transmit motor vehicle  
18 driver's license and nondriver identification card applications received under  
19 this section to the Secretary of State not later than five days after the date the  
20 application was accepted by the Department, or before the date of any primary  
21 or general election, whichever is sooner.

\* \* \*

This act shall take effect on passage.