

1 H.474

2 An act relating to relating to miscellaneous changes to election law

3 The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after
4 the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

5 **Sec. 1. [Deleted.]**

6 Sec. 2. [Deleted.]

7 Sec. 3. [Deleted.]

8 * * * One-Bite Candidacy * * *

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

10 § 2381. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER

11 * * *

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

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

17 § 2401. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER

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

1 justice of the peace, the consent form and statement of nomination shall be
2 filed with the town clerk.

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

6 **Sec. 6. [Deleted.]**

7 * * * Miscellaneous Changes to Electronic Ballot Delivery Law * * *

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

9 § 2539. DELIVERY OF EARLY VOTER ABSENTEE BALLOTS

10 * * *

11 (c) Military or overseas voters.

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

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

19 (B) On that day the town clerk shall complete any reporting
20 requirements and any other responsibilities regarding the mailing of early voter
21 absentee ballots to military or overseas voters, as directed by the Secretary of
22 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 Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate town clerks of any filings made
2 in accordance with this subsection as soon as practicable.

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

5 (A) the candidate has already filed a consent to the printing of the
6 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 (B) no candidate is printed on the ballot, or if a candidate whose
9 name is printed on the ballot dies or is otherwise disqualified prior to 7:00 p.m.
10 on the election day.

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

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

20 (1) still be determined a winner under section 2369 of this chapter
21 before he or she becomes the party's candidate in the general election; and

3 Sec. 10. 17 V.S.A. § 2472 is amended to read:

4 § 2472. CONTENTS

(b)(1) Each office to be voted upon shall be separately indicated and preceded by the word “For,” as: “For United States Senator.” Beneath the office to be voted upon shall appear the instructions: “Vote for not more than (the number of candidates to be elected).”

(b)(1) Each office to be voted upon shall be separately indicated and preceded by the word “For,” as: “For United States Senator.” Beneath the office to be voted upon shall appear the instructions: “Vote for not more than (the number of candidates to be elected).”

18 (5)(A) In order to have votes listed for a write-in candidate under
19 section 2587 of this title, not later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday preceding
20 the election, a write-in candidate for the General Assembly, any State office, or
21 any federal office shall complete a form of the Secretary of State's design
22 affirming that the candidate wants to have received votes listed under

1 subdivision 2587(e)(3) of this title. The candidate shall file the form with
2 either all town clerks within the candidate's applicable district or the Secretary
3 of State's office in an electronic manner approved by the Secretary. The
4 Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate town clerks of any filings made
5 in accordance with this subsection (b) as soon as practicable.

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

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

11 (ii) no candidate is printed on the ballot, or if a candidate
12 whose name is printed on the ballot dies or is otherwise disqualified prior to
13 7:00 p.m. on the election day.

14 * * *

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

16 § 2587. RULES FOR COUNTING VOTES

17 * * *

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

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

3 (A) count write-in votes:

4 (i) for candidates who have filed in compliance with section 2370,
5 2472, or 2702 of this title or who have filed a consent to the printing of the
6 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) for all candidates if no candidate is printed on the ballot, or if a
9 candidate whose name is printed on the ballot dies or is otherwise disqualified
10 prior to 7:00 p.m. on election day;

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

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

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

20 (3) Notwithstanding any contrary provisions in subdivision (2)(A) of
21 this subsection, if the number of “other write-ins” for the same nomination or
22 office equals or exceeds the number of votes cast for any candidate for the

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

12 * * *

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

14 § 2702. NOMINATING PETITION

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

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

22 (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.

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

1 § 2964. CAMPAIGN REPORTS; CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICE,
2 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND COUNTY OFFICE;
3 POLITICAL COMMITTEES; INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE-
4 ONLY POLITICAL COMMITTEES; POLITICAL PARTIES

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

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

15 and

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

17 (i) on March 15;

18 (ii) on July 1 and August 1;

19 (iii) on September 1;

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

22 (v) two weeks after the general election.

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

11 Sec. 16. REPEAL

12 17 V.S.A. § 2966 (reports by candidates not reaching monetary reporting
13 threshold) is repealed.

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

15 § 2970. CAMPAIGN REPORTS; OTHER ENTITIES; PUBLIC

16 QUESTIONS

17 (a) ~~Any formal or informal political action committee of two or more~~
18 ~~individuals or a corporation, labor organization, public interest group, or other~~
19 ~~entity, not including a political party, or independent expenditure-only political~~
20 ~~committee that makes expenditures of \$1,000.00~~ \$500.00 or more during the
21 election cycle for the purpose of advocating a position on a public question or
22 influencing an election in any election shall file a report of its expenditures 30

1 days before, 10 days before, and two weeks after the election with the
2 Secretary of State.

3 * * *

4 * * * Campaign Finance; Independent Expenditure-Only Political Committees

5 * * *

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

7 § 2901. DEFINITIONS

8 As used in this chapter:

9 * * *

10 (10) “Independent expenditure-only political committee” means ~~a political~~
11 ~~committee that~~ any one or more individuals, or any corporation, labor
12 organization, public interest group, or other entity, excluding a political party,
13 that accepts contributions or makes expenditures in any amounts within any
14 two-year general election cycle for the purpose of supporting or opposing
15 candidates, influencing an election, or advocating for or against a public
16 question; conducts its activities entirely independent of candidates; does not
17 give contributions to candidates, political committees, or political parties; does
18 not make related expenditures; and is not closely related to a political party or
19 to a political committee that makes contributions to candidates or makes
20 related expenditures. “Independent expenditure-only political committee”
21 includes any “self-funded individual,” meaning an individual who receives no
22 contributions from any other source for the purpose of supporting or opposing

1 candidates, influencing an election, or advocating for or against a public
2 question.

3 * * *

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

13 * * *

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

15 § 2925. POLITICAL COMMITTEES; SURPLUS CAMPAIGN

16 FUNDS

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

20 * * *

21 s is amended to read:

22 § 2945. ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS

1 (a) A candidate, political committee, independent expenditure-only
2 political committee, or political party accepts a contribution when the
3 contribution is deposited in the candidate's, committee's, or party's campaign
4 account or five business days after the candidate, committee, or party receives
5 it, whichever comes first.

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

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

11 § 2962. REPORTS; GENERAL PROVISIONS

12 (a) Any report required to be submitted to the Secretary of State under this
13 chapter shall contain the statement "I hereby certify that the information
14 provided on all pages of this campaign finance disclosure report is true to the
15 best of my knowledge, information, and belief" and places for the signature of
16 the candidate or the treasurer of the candidate, political committee,
17 independent expenditure-only political committee, or political party.

18 * * *

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

20 § 2965. ~~FINAL REPORTS; CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICE, THE~~
21 ~~GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND COUNTY OFFICE; POLITICAL~~
22 ~~COMMITTEES; POLITICAL PARTIES; END-OF-~~

1 ~~CYCLE REPORTS FOR POLITICAL COMMITTEES AND~~
2 ~~POLITICAL PARTIES~~

3 * * *

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

9 (2) At any time, a political committee, independent expenditure-only
10 political committee, or a political party may file a “final report” that lists a
11 complete accounting of all contributions and expenditures since the last report
12 and liquidation of surplus and that shall constitute the termination of its
13 campaign activities.

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

15 § 2972. IDENTIFICATION IN ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

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

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

* * *

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

2 § 2973. SPECIFIC IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RADIO,
3 TELEVISION, OR INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

4 (a) In addition to the identification requirements set forth in section 2972 of
5 this subchapter, a person, candidate, political committee, independent
6 expenditure-only political committee, or political party that makes an
7 expenditure for an electioneering communication shall include in any
8 communication that is transmitted through radio, television, or online video, in
9 a clearly spoken manner, an audio statement of the name and title of the person
10 who paid for the communication and that the person paid for the
11 communication.

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

17 * * * Audits of Voter Checklists and District Boundaries* * *

18 Sec. 18. AUDITS OF VOTER CHECKLISTS AND DISTRICT
19 BOUNDARIES

20 (a) On or before September 15, 2025, local boards of civil authority and
21 town clerks whose municipal boundaries are divided for the purpose of
22 Representative districts and Senatorial districts shall audit their voter checklists

1 to ensure that those checklists accurately correspond to the prescribed district
2 boundaries.

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

6 (c) On or before November 15, 2025, the Secretary shall submit a written
7 report to the House Committee on Government Operations and Military
8 Affairs and the Senate Committee on Government Operations with the findings
9 of the audits.

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

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

17 * * * Deadline Modifications and Miscellaneous Clarifications * * *

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

19 § 1971. CASTING MORE THAN ONE BALLOT

20 A legal voter who knowingly ~~casts more than one ballot at any one time of~~
21 ~~balloting~~ votes more than once in any election held in this State, or who votes
22 in both this State and another state or territory in the same or equivalent

1 election for the same office shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 if the
2 offense is committed at a primary or general election, and not more than
3 \$100.00 if committed at a local election.

4 Sec. 21. REPEAL

5 17 V.S.A. § 1973 (voting in more than one place) is repealed.

6 Sec. 22. 17 V.S.A. § 2103 is amended to read:

7 § 2103. DEFINITIONS

8 As used in this title, unless the context or a specific definition requires a
9 different reading:

10 * * *

11 (6) "Campaign" means any organized or coordinated activity undertaken
12 by ~~two~~ one or more persons, any part of which is designed to influence the
13 nomination, election, or defeat of any candidate or the passage, defeat, or
14 modification of any public question.

15 * * *

16 Sec. 23. 17 V.S.A. § 2358 is amended to read:

17 § 2358. EXAMINING PETITIONS; SUPPLEMENTARY PETITIONS

18 * * *

19 (b) If found not to conform, ~~he or she~~ the officer shall state in writing on a
20 particular petition why it cannot be accepted, and within ~~72 hours~~ two business
21 days from receipt, ~~he or she~~ the officer shall return it to the candidate in whose
22 behalf it was filed. In such case, supplementary petitions may be filed not later

1 than 10 days after the date for filing petitions. However, supplementary
2 petitions shall not be accepted if petitions with signatures of different persons
3 totaling at least the required number were not received by the filing deadline.

4 * * *

5 **Sec. 24. [Deleted.]**

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

7 § 2413. NOMINATION OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

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

11 * * *

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

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

17 **§ 2402. REQUISITES OF STATEMENT**

18 * * *

19 **(d)(1) A statement of nomination and a completed and signed consent form**
20 **shall be filed:**

21 * * *

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

4 * * *

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

6 § 2546. RECEIPT OF BALLOTS BY CLERK; VOTER STATUS;
7 OPPORTUNITY TO CURE; PROCESSING ABSENTEE
8 BALLOTS

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

14 * * *

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

16 § 2703. EXAMINING PETITIONS; SUPPLEMENTARY PETITIONS

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

1 may be filed not later than 10 days after the deadline for filing petitions.

2 However, supplementary petitions shall not be accepted if petitions with the
3 signatures of at least 1,000 persons were not filed by the deadline for filing
4 petitions set forth in section 2702 of this chapter.

5 * * * Local Elections; Open Meeting Law Not Applicable to Annual
6 Meetings * * *

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

8 § 310. DEFINITIONS

9 As used in this subchapter:

10 * * *

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

14 * * *

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

18 (6) “Public body” means any board, council, or commission of the State
19 or one or more of its political subdivisions, any board, council, or commission
20 of any agency, authority, or instrumentality of the State or one or more of its
21 political subdivisions, or any committee or subcommittee of any of the

1 foregoing boards, councils, or commissions, except that “public body” does not
2 include;

3 (A) councils or similar groups established by the Governor for the
4 sole purpose of advising the Governor with respect to policy; or

5 (B) the voters of a municipality at an annual or special municipal
6 meeting.

7 * * *

8 Sec. 30. [Deleted.]

9 Sec. 31. [Deleted.]

10 Sec. 32. [Deleted.]

11 Sec. 33. [Deleted.]

12 Sec. 34. [Deleted.]

13 Sec. 35. [Deleted.]

14 Sec. 36. [Deleted.]

15 * * * Automatic Voter Registration * * *

16 Sec. 37. 17 V.S.A. § 2145a is amended to read:

17 § 2145a. REGISTRATIONS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR

18 VEHICLES

19 (a) An application for, or renewal of, a motor vehicle driver’s license or
20 nondriver identification card shall serve as a simultaneous application to
21 register to vote if the applicant attests to U.S. citizenship or the Department has
22 proof of U.S. citizenship unless the applicant checks the box on the application

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.

