

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 23 entitled “An act relating to the use of synthetic media in elections”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 Senate concur in the House proposal of amendment with further proposal of
6 amendment as follows:

7 First: In Sec. 1, 17 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 4, in section 2031, by
8 striking out subdivisions (1) and (2) in their entirety and inserting in lieu
9 thereof new subdivisions (1) and (2) to read as follows:

10 (1) “Deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media” means synthetic media
11 that appears to a reasonable person to be a realistic representation of an
12 individual that does any of the following:

13 (A) injures the reputation of a political candidate; or
14 (B) attempts to unduly influence the outcome of an election,
15 including a public question, by providing materially false information to
16 voters.

17 (2) “Synthetic media” means an image, an audio recording, or a video
18 recording of an individual’s appearance, speech, or conduct that has been
19 created or intentionally manipulated with the use of digital technology,
20 including artificial intelligence.

(2) For deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media consisting of audio recordings only, the disclosure shall be read in a clearly spoken manner and in a pitch and pace that can be easily heard by the average listener and inclusive to the greatest extent possible of individuals with disabilities, at the beginning of the audio recording, at the end of the audio recording, and, if the audio is greater than two minutes in length, interspersed within the audio recording at intervals of not greater than two minutes each.

FOR THE COMMITTEE