

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 entireties 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.

1        Second: In Sec. 1, 17 V.S.A. chapter 35, subchapter 4, in section 2032, in  
2        subsection (a), by striking out subdivisions (1) and (2) in their entireties and  
3        inserting in lieu thereof new subdivisions (1) and (2) to read as follows:

4                (1) For deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media consisting of images  
5                and video recordings, the text of the disclosure shall appear in a size that is  
6                easily readable by the average viewer and inclusive to the greatest extent  
7                possible of individuals with disabilities. For video recordings, the disclosure  
8                shall appear for the full duration of the video recording.

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

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17        (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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19        Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE