

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred House Bill No. 541  
3 entitled “An act relating to interference with voters and election officials”  
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the  
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in  
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 1972 is amended to read:

8 § 1972. SHOWING BALLOT; ~~INTERFERENCE WITH VOTER~~

9 (a) A voter who, except in cases of assistance as provided in this title,  
10 allows ~~his or her~~ the voter's ballot to be seen by another person with an  
11 apparent intention of letting it be known how ~~he or she~~ the voter is about to  
12 vote or makes a false statement to the presiding officer at an election as to ~~his~~  
13 ~~or her~~ the voter's inability to mark ~~his or her~~ the voter's ballot or places a  
14 distinguishing mark on ~~his or her~~ the voter's ballot ~~or a person who interferes~~  
15 ~~with a voter when inside the guard rail or who, within the building in which the~~  
16 ~~voting is proceeding, endeavors to induce a voter to vote for a particular~~  
17 ~~candidate,~~ shall be fined \$1,000.00.

18 (b) ~~It shall be the duty of the election officers to see that the offender is~~  
19 ~~duly prosecuted for a violation of this section.~~

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1 Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 1975 is added to read:

2 **§ 1975. INTERFERENCE WITH VOTERS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS**

3 (a) No person shall intimidate, threaten, coerce, or attempt to intimidate,  
4 threaten, or coerce:

5 (1) any other person for the purpose of:

6 (A) obstructing the right of the other person to vote or to vote as the  
7 other person may choose; or

8 (B) causing the other person to vote for, or not to vote for, any  
9 candidate for public office at any election; or

10 (2) a public servant, an election official, or a public employee for the  
11 purpose of obstructing the administration of an election.

12 (b) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be imprisoned  
13 not more than two years or fined not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

14 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on passage.

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18 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

19 \_\_\_\_\_

20

Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE