

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs to which was
3 referred Senate Bill No. 254 entitled “An act relating to union organizing”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: By striking out Sec. 1, 3 V.S.A. § 941 in its entirety and inserting in
7 lieu thereof a new Sec. 1 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 941 is amended to read:

9 § 941. UNIT DETERMINATION, CERTIFICATION, AND
10 REPRESENTATION

11 * * *

12 (c)(1) A petition may be filed with the Board, in accordance with
13 procedures prescribed by the Board:

14 ~~(1)~~ By by an employee or group of employees, or any individual or
15 employee organization purporting to act ~~in~~ on their behalf, alleging by filing a
16 petition or petitions bearing signatures of not less than 30 percent of the
17 employees, that they wish to form a bargaining unit and be represented for
18 collective bargaining, or that the individual or employee organization currently
19 certified as the bargaining agent is no longer supported by at least 51 percent
20 of the employees in the bargaining unit, or that they are now included in an
21 approved bargaining unit and wish to form a separate bargaining unit under

1 Board criteria for purposes of collective bargaining. The employee, group of
2 employees, individual, or employee organization that files the petition, shall, at
3 the same time that the petition is filed with the Board, provide a copy of the
4 petition to the employer and, if appropriate, the current bargaining agent.

5 (2)(A)(i) An employer shall, not more than seven business days after
6 receiving a copy of the petition, file any objections to the appropriateness of
7 the proposed bargaining unit and raise any other unit determination issues with
8 the Board and provide a copy of the filing to the employee, group of
9 employees, individual, or employee organization that filed the petition.

10 (ii) A hearing shall be held before the Board pursuant to
11 subdivision (d)(1)(B) of this section in the event the employer challenges the
12 appropriateness of the proposed bargaining unit, provided that a hearing shall
13 not be held if the parties stipulate to the composition of the appropriate
14 bargaining unit and resolve any other unit determination issues before the
15 hearing.

16 (iii) The Board may endeavor to informally mediate any dispute
17 regarding the appropriateness of the proposed bargaining unit prior to the
18 hearing.

19 (B)(i) Within five business days after receiving a copy of the petition,
20 the employer shall file with the Board and the employee or group of
21 employees, or the individual or employee organization purporting to act on

1 their behalf, a list of the names and job titles of the employees in the proposed
2 bargaining unit. To the extent possible, the list of employees shall be in
3 alphabetical order by last name and provided in electronic format.

4 (ii) An employee or group of employees, or any person purporting
5 to act on their behalf, that is seeking to demonstrate that the current bargaining
6 agent is no longer supported by at least 51 percent of the employees in the
7 bargaining unit shall not be entitled to obtain a list of the employees in the
8 bargaining unit from the employer pursuant to this subdivision (c)(2)(B), but
9 may obtain a list pursuant to subdivision (e)(3) of this section after the Board
10 has investigated its petition and determined that a secret ballot election shall be
11 conducted.

12 (iii) The list shall be kept confidential and shall be exempt from
13 copying and inspection under the Public Records Act.

14 (d) The Board, a Board member ~~thereof~~, or a person or persons designated
15 by the Board shall investigate the petition; and do one of the following:

16 (1) Determine that the petition has made a sufficient showing of interest
17 pursuant to subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

18 ~~(4)(2)(A) #~~ If it finds reasonable cause to believe that a question of unit
19 determination or representation exists, ~~an appropriate hearing shall be~~
20 ~~scheduled before the Board upon due notice~~ the Board shall schedule a hearing

1 to be held before the Board not more than **ten** business days after the petition
2 was filed with the Board.

3 **(B)** Once scheduled, the date of the hearing shall not be subject to
4 change **except as provided pursuant to subdivision (e)(4) of this section.** Upon
5 request, the results of the investigation shall be made available by the Board to
6 the petitioners and all intervenors, if any, including the duly certified
7 bargaining representative prior to giving notice of hearing. Written notice of
8 the hearing shall be mailed by certified mail to the parties named in the petition
9 not less than seven calendar days before the hearing.

10 **(C)** Hearing procedure and notification of the results of ~~same~~ the
11 hearing shall be in accordance with rules ~~prescribed~~ adopted by the Board, ~~or~~
12 except **that the parties shall only be permitted to submit posthearing briefs not**
13 **more than five days after the hearing if the parties mutually agree to do so or if**
14 **the Board requests that the parties submit posthearing briefs.**

15 **(D)** The Board shall issue its decision as soon as practicable and, in
16 any event, not more than five business days after the hearing or the submission
17 any posthearing briefs.

18 ~~(2)(3) dismiss the petition, based upon the~~ If the Board finds an absence
19 of substantive evidence, it shall dismiss the petition.

20 **(e)(1)** Whenever, as a result ~~on the basis~~ of a petition and an appropriate
21 pursuant to subdivision (d)(1) of this section or a hearing pursuant to

1 subdivision (d)(2) of this section, the Board finds substantial interest among
2 employees in forming a bargaining unit ~~or being represented for purposes of~~
3 collective bargaining, a secret ballot election shall be conducted by the Board
4 ~~to be taken in such manner as to show~~ not more than 23 business days after the
5 petition is filed with the Board except as otherwise provided pursuant to
6 subdivision (4) of this subsection.

7 (2) The election shall be conducted so that it shows separately the
8 wishes of the employees in the voting group involved as to the determination
9 of the collective bargaining unit, including the right not to be organized. ~~In~~
10 ~~order for a~~ The collective bargaining unit ~~to~~ or collective bargaining
11 representative shall be recognized and certified by the Board, ~~there must be~~
12 upon a majority vote ~~cast by those~~ of the employees voting.

13 (3)(A) The employer shall file with the Board and the other parties a list
14 of the employees in the bargaining unit within two business days after the
15 Board determines that a secret ballot election shall be conducted.

16 (B) The list shall include, as appropriate, each employee's name,
17 work location, shift, job classification, and contact information. As used in
18 this subdivision (3), "contact information" includes an employee's home
19 address, personal e-mail address, and home and personal cellular telephone
20 numbers to the extent that the employer is in possession of such information.

1 (C) To the extent possible, the list of employees shall be in
2 alphabetical order by last name and provided in electronic format.

3 (D) The list shall be:

4 (i) kept confidential by the Board and all of the parties; and

5 (ii) shall be exempt from copying and inspection under the Public
6 Records Act.

7 (E) Failure to file the list within the time required pursuant to
8 subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3) may be grounds for the Board to set
9 aside the results of the election if an objection is filed within the time required
10 pursuant to the Board’s rules.

11 (4) The Board may, upon the request of any party or on its own motion,
12 extend any time period set forth in this subsection or in subsections (c) and (d)
13 of this section for good cause, provided that the election shall be conducted
14 within not more than 60 calendars after the date the petition is filed pursuant to
15 subsection (c) of this section. The Board may further extend the time to
16 conduct the election by not more than 30 additional calendar days upon the
17 mutual agreement of the parties or if it determines that extraordinary
18 circumstances have made such an extension necessary.

19 * * *

20 (g)(1) In determining the representation of State employees in a collective
21 bargaining unit, the Board shall conduct a secret ballot of the employees within

1 the time period set forth in subdivision (e)(1) of this section, unless the time to
2 conduct the election is extended pursuant to subdivision (e)(4) of this section,
3 and certify the results to the interested parties and to the State employer. The
4 original ballot shall be so prepared as to permit a vote against representation by
5 anyone named on the ballot. No representative will be certified with less than
6 a majority of the votes cast by employees in the bargaining unit.

7 * * *

8 Second: In Sec. 2, 16 V.S.A. § 1992, in subdivision (a)(2)(B), before the
9 words “business days” by striking out the word “two” and inserting in lieu
10 thereof the word “five”

11 Third: By striking out Sec. 3, 21 V.S.A. § 1724, in its entirety and inserting
12 in lieu thereof a new Sec. 3 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 3. 21 V.S.A. § 1724 is amended to read:

14 § 1724. CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

15 (a)(1) A petition may be filed with the Board, in accordance with
16 ~~regulations prescribed~~ rules adopted by the Board:

17 (A) By an employee or group of employees, or any individual or
18 employee organization purporting to act ~~in~~ on their behalf, alleging that not
19 less than 30 percent of the employees, wish to form a bargaining unit and be
20 represented for collective bargaining, or assert that the individual or employee
21 organization currently certified as bargaining agent is no longer supported by

1 at least 51 percent of the employees in the bargaining unit, or that not less than
2 51 percent of the employees now included in an approved bargaining unit wish
3 to form a separate bargaining unit under Board criteria for purposes of
4 collective bargaining. The employee, group of employees, individual, or
5 employee organization that files the petition shall, at the same time that the
6 petition is filed with the Board, provide a copy of the petition to the employer
7 and, if appropriate, the current bargaining agent.

8 ~~(2)(B)~~ By the employer alleging that the presently certified bargaining
9 unit is no longer appropriate under Board criteria. The employer shall provide
10 a copy of the petition to the current bargaining agent at the same time that the
11 petition is filed with the Board.

12 (2)(A)(i) An employer shall, not more than seven business days after
13 receiving a copy of the petition, file any objections to the appropriateness of
14 the proposed bargaining unit and raise any other unit determination issues with
15 the Board and provide a copy of the filing to the employee, group of
16 employees, individual, or employee organization that filed the petition.

17 (ii) A hearing shall be held before the Board pursuant to
18 subdivision (d)(1)(B) of this section in the event the employer challenges the
19 appropriateness of the proposed bargaining unit, provided that a hearing shall
20 not be held if the parties stipulate to the composition of the appropriate

1 bargaining unit and resolve any other unit determination issues before the
2 hearing.

3 (iii) The Board may endeavor to informally mediate any dispute
4 regarding the appropriateness of the proposed bargaining unit prior to the
5 hearing.

6 (B)(i) Within five business days after receiving a copy of the petition,
7 the employer shall file with the Board and the employee or group of
8 employees, or the individual or employee organization purporting to act on
9 their behalf, a list of the names and job titles of the employees in the proposed
10 bargaining unit. To the extent possible, the list of employees shall be in
11 alphabetical order by last name and provided in electronic format.

12 (ii) An employee or group of employees, or any person purporting
13 to act on their behalf, that is seeking to demonstrate that the current bargaining
14 agent is no longer supported by at least 51 percent of the employees in the
15 bargaining unit shall not be entitled to obtain a list of the employees in the
16 bargaining unit from the employer pursuant to this subdivision (a)(2)(B), but
17 may obtain a list pursuant to subdivision (e)(3) of this section after the Board
18 has investigated its petition and determined that a secret ballot election shall be
19 conducted.

20 (iii) The list shall be kept confidential and shall be exempt from
21 copying and inspection under the Public Records Act.

1 (b) The Board, a Board member thereof, or a person or persons designated
2 by the Board shall investigate the petition; and do one of the following:

3 (1) Determine that the petition has made a sufficient showing of interest
4 pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section.

5 ~~(1)(2)(A) if~~ If it finds reasonable cause to believe that a question of unit
6 determination or representation exists, ~~an appropriate hearing shall be~~
7 ~~scheduled before the Board upon due notice. Written notice of the hearing~~
8 ~~shall be mailed by certified mail to the parties named in the petition not less~~
9 ~~than 14 calendar days before the hearing.~~ the Board shall schedule a hearing to
10 be held before the Board not more than ten business days after the petition was
11 filed with the Board.

12 (B) Once scheduled, the date of the hearing shall not be subject to
13 change except as provided pursuant to subdivision (e)(4) of this section.

14 (C) Hearing procedure and notification of the results thereof of the
15 hearing shall be in accordance with rules prescribed adopted by the Board or,
16 except that the parties shall only be permitted to submit posthearing briefs not
17 more than five days after the hearing if the parties mutually agree to do so or if
18 the Board requests that the parties submit posthearing briefs.

19 (D) The Board shall issue its decision as soon as practicable and, in
20 any event, not more than five business days after the hearing or the submission
21 any posthearing briefs.

1 (B) The list shall include, as appropriate, each employee’s name,
2 work location, shift, job classification, and contact information. As used in
3 this subdivision (3), “contact information” includes an employee’s home
4 address, personal e-mail address, and home and personal cellular telephone
5 numbers to the extent that the employer is in possession of such information.

6 (C) To the extent possible, the list of employees shall be in
7 alphabetical order by last name and provided in electronic format.

8 (D) The list shall be:

9 (i) kept confidential by the Board and all of the parties; and

10 (ii) shall be exempt from copying and inspection under the Public
11 Records Act.

12 (E) Failure to file the list within the time required pursuant to
13 subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3) may be grounds for the Board to set
14 aside the results of the election if an objection is filed within the time required
15 pursuant to the Board’s rules.

16 (4) The Board may, upon the request of any party or on its own motion,
17 extend any time period set forth in this subsection or in subsections (a) and (b)
18 of this section for good cause, provided that the election shall be conducted
19 within not more than 60 calendars after the date the petition is filed pursuant to
20 subsection (c) of this section. The Board may further extend the date to
21 conduct the election by not more than 30 additional calendar days upon the

1 mutual agreement of the parties or if it determines that extraordinary
2 circumstances have made such an extension necessary.

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9 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE