

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate  
3 Bill No. 354 entitled “An act relating to emergency provisions for the  
4 operation of government” respectfully reports that it has considered the same  
5 and recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended  
6 by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the  
7 following:

8 Sec. 1. MUNICIPAL MEETINGS IN THE YEAR 2021; AUSTRALIAN  
9 BALLOT AUTHORITY

10 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2680(a) and 16 V.S.A.  
11 § 711e that require the voters of a municipality to vote to apply the provisions  
12 of the Australian ballot system to the annual or special meeting of the  
13 municipality, in the year 2021, any municipality may apply the Australian  
14 ballot system to any or all of its municipal meetings held in the year 2021 by  
15 vote of its legislative body.

16 (b) The Secretary of State may waive statutory deadlines or other statutory  
17 provisions, or provisions set forth in a school district’s articles of agreement,  
18 related to a municipal election as necessary in order for a municipality to apply  
19 the Australian ballot system to its meeting in accordance with subsection (a) of  
20 this section. This waiver authority applies to statutory provisions set forth in a  
21 municipal charter or provisions set forth in a school district’s articles of

1 agreement if the waiver is requested by that municipality.

2 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

3 This act shall take effect on passage.

4 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act  
5 relating to using Australian ballot for municipal meetings in the year 2021”

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8 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE