

Floor Amendment to SB 2

1 Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

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3 2 Preparation of Polling Place; Arrangement. RSA 658:9, VII is repealed and reenacted to read
4 as follows:

5 VII. The requirements of this section may be satisfied by alternative requirements issued by
6 the secretary of state in consultation with the attorney general and the commissioner of the
7 department of health and human services or designee.

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9 Amend the bill by replacing section 5 with the following:

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11 5 Partial Processing of Absentee Ballots Prior to an Election. RSA 659:55-a is repealed and
12 reenacted to read as follows:

13 659:55-a Partial Processing of Absentee Ballots Prior to an Election.

14 I. The moderator, or his or her designee, may begin the processing of absentee ballots prior
15 to the opening of the polls provided that the clerk shall post, in an appropriate public place and prior
16 to election day, notice of the time and place of the processing. If the moderator chooses to do so it
17 shall be posted in 2 appropriate public places, one of which shall be the public body's Internet
18 website, if such exists, or shall be printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town at
19 least 48 hours, excluding Sundays and legal holidays, prior to such meeting. A copy of the notice
20 shall be provided to the secretary of state. The partial processing of absentee ballots prior to an
21 election shall occur on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Monday prior to the date of the election
22 after the posting of the checklist. The moderator shall be assisted by at least 3 other election officers
23 as defined under RSA 652:14. Members of the general public may observe this process. Under no
24 circumstances shall absentee ballots be counted prior to the opening of the polls.

25 II. Once notice of the processing has been posted, all absentee ballots received by the end of
26 the day preceding the posted time for the meeting shall be partially processed. Only one session for
27 the partial processing of absentee ballots may be scheduled prior to an election.

28 III. Except as otherwise provided, the moderator, or his or her designee, shall adhere to the
29 procedures detailed in RSA 659:49-b, RSA 659:50, RSA 659:51, RSA 659:52, RSA 659:53, RSA
30 659:54, RSA 659:54-a, RSA 666:4, and RSA 666:5.

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32 Amend the bill by replacing section 10 with the following:

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10 Annual Meetings; Postponement Allowed for 2021.

I. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, for calendar year 2021, where concern exists for conducting the annual meeting and election during the COVID-19 health emergency, the governing body of a town, school district, or village district, in consultation with the moderator and the clerk, may postpone the official ballot voting day to the second Tuesday of April, May, June, or July. The governing body may also postpone the business or deliberative session of the annual meeting to one or more dates later in 2021. The governing body shall hold a public hearing before making any decision to postpone pursuant to this paragraph. The prohibition in RSA 40:4, II(c) on delaying the deliberative session more than 72 hours and the requirement in RSA 669:1-a that the election be rescheduled to the Tuesday 2 weeks following the original date shall not apply.

II. The governing body shall provide notice to voters of the date or dates promptly after making the decision to postpone. The governing body shall also re-post notice at least 14 days before the date(s) of the rescheduled official ballot voting day and business or deliberative session. At a minimum, notice shall be posted on the town, school, or village district website, if such exists, and in 2 public places. Any hearings, notices, or other actions required to be taken before the annual meeting shall be deemed sufficient if taken the legally required number of days before the postponed session.

III. In the event of a postponement, the requirement that the business meeting must conclude before newly elected officers and officials can assume office under RSA 42:3 is hereby waived. Municipal and local governmental bodies are permitted to swear in newly elected officers and officials, and those individuals may assume office before the business meeting has concluded. The governing body in both calendar year and fiscal year towns or districts may make expenditures between January 1 and the date a budget is adopted which are reasonable in light of prior year's appropriations and expenditures for the same purpose during the same time period. Such budget shall be adopted no later than September 1, 2021, and any interim expenditure not authorized in the adopted budget shall cease. This spending authority shall be read in harmony with emergency order 56 issued by the governor on June 25, 2020.