https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2020/H.681
https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/ACTS/ACT092/ACT092%20Act%20Summary.pdf

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Act No. 92 (H.681). Elections; Open Meeting Law; deadlines for municipal corporations and other political subdivisions

An act relating to government operations in response to the COVID-19 outbreak

This act provides for government operations in response to COVID-19 in the areas of elections, Open Meeting Law, and deadlines for municipal corporations and other political subdivisions.

Elections. The elections provisions set forth in Secs. 2 through 4 of this act are limited to the year 2020. These sections provide temporary elections procedures that differ from current election law in response to COVID-19.

- Sec. 1 states that these temporary elections provisions are enacted so that Vermont citizens can protect their health, safety, and welfare while also continuing to participate in elections in order to maintain our democratic institutions.
- Sec. 2 eliminates the requirement to obtain voter signatures to have one's name printed on the ballot in the primary, general election, or a local election, and shortens the time period to file candidate consents for the primary and general election.
- Sec. 3 generally allows the Secretary of State, in consultation and agreement with the Governor, to order or permit, as applicable, appropriate elections procedures for the purpose of protecting peoples' health, safety, and welfare. It provides a nonexhaustive list of procedures this may include and requires the Secretary of State to adopt corresponding procedures to ensure the public can monitor polling places and the counting of votes.
- Sec. 4 is in regard to using the Australian ballot system in local elections. It allows a municipal legislative body to vote to apply the Australian ballot system to the municipality's elections and allows the Secretary of State to waive provisions in statute or school district articles of agreement for municipalities to use Australian ballot.

Open Meeting Law. The meeting provisions set forth in Secs. 5 through 7 of this act provide temporary Open Meeting Law provisions and Fish and Wildlife Board meeting requirements that differ from current law in response to COVID-19.

- Sec. 5 states that these temporary Open Meeting Law provisions are enacted so that Vermont citizens can protect their health, safety, and welfare while maintaining open access to the operations of government.
- Sec. 6 provides temporary authority for public bodies to meet electronically without designating a physical location where the public may attend and allows public bodies to extend the deadline for posting of minutes under certain circumstances. Sec. 6 also requires the legislative body of each municipality and school district to record any meeting held electronically, unless unusual circumstances make it impossible for them to do so.
- Sec. 7 temporarily limits the statutory number of regional Fish and Wildlife Board meetings concerning the deer herd, migratory bird, and moose to not less than five meetings and permits those meetings to be held electronically.

Deadlines for municipal corporations and other political subdivisions.

- Sec. 8(a) provides the Governor with temporary authority to extend any deadline applicable to municipal corporations or regional planning commissions. Statutory deadlines may only be extended up to 90 days beyond the end of the declared state of emergency. Any license, plan, or program that is due to a State agency for renewal shall remain valid for 90 days beyond the end of the declared state of emergency.
- Sec. 8(b) allows a municipal corporation to extend any deadline applicable to a municipal corporation, provided that the deadline does not relate to a State license, permit, program, or plan. It also allows a municipal corporation to extend or waive deadlines applicable to licenses, permits, programs, or plans issued by a municipal corporation and extends the validity of those licenses, permits, programs, or plans to 90 days beyond the end of the declared state of emergency.
- Sec. 9 establishes a temporary moratorium on disconnections from public drinking water and wastewater systems.

Effective Date: March 30, 2020