

PHILIP B. SCOTT  
Governor



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 2, 2020

Vermont General Assembly  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05633

Dear Legislators:

Today, S. 348, *an act relating to temporary elections procedures in the year 2020* will go into law without my signature due to a technical flaw.

There appears to be a cross-reference to a section of the bill that does not exist, leaving the authority of the Secretary of State ambiguous as it relates to ballot returns.

It is my understanding that Legislative Council explained this mistake to the House Government Operations Committee and recommended clean-up, but there was a decision made to enact this legislation rather than taking the time to rectify.

This is particularly concerning in light of the concerns expressed by many regarding the return process for ballots mailed to all Vermonters.

I have said publicly if the General Assembly decided to remove me from this process, I would not stand in the way. For these reasons, I am letting S. 348 become law without my signature and I hope the General Assembly will correct the bill's flaws and ensure full and adequate oversight of the mail-in ballot program it has created upon return in August.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. B. Scott", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

PBS/kp

c: The Honorable Mitzi Johnson, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Tim Ashe, President Pro Tempore  
The Honorable William MaGill, Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives  
The Honorable John Bloomer, Secretary of the Vermont Senate