# BILL AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATEH.5242017Page 1 of 8

1	H.524
2	Introduced by Representatives Christie of Hartford, Buckholz of Hartford, and
3	Lucke of Hartford
4	Referred to Committee on
5	Date:
6	Subject: Municipal government; municipal charters; Town of Hartford;
7	amendments
8	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to approve
9	amendments to the charter of the Town of Hartford.
10	
10 11	An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of Hartford
12	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
13	Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL
14	The General Assembly approves the amendments to the charter of the Town
15	of Hartford as set forth in this act. Proposals of amendments were approved
16	by the voters on March 7, 2017.
17	Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 123A is amended to read:
18	CHAPTER 123A. TOWN OF HARTFORD
19	* * *
20	§ 103. PARTICULAR POWERS

### BILL AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE 2017

1	In addition to powers otherwise conferred upon it by law, the Town is, for
2	the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, welfare, and convenience,
3	authorized to adopt and enforce ordinances, rules, and regulations concerning
4	any matter or activity permitted by general law, including:
5	* * *
6	§ 201. TOWN MEETING
7	* * *
8	(b) School and Town Meeting Committee. To augment the statutory
9	responsibilities for the annual Town and School District meetings that are
10	specified to the Town and the School District and their respective officers,
11	there shall be a School and Town Meeting Committee which that shall
12	organize, arrange, and provide for the comfort, presentation, publicity,
13	program, refreshments, entertainment, and other nonstatutory aspects of the
14	budget discussion/candidates night meeting (hereafter referred to as pretown
15	meeting), and the combined Town/School District Meeting (hereafter referred
16	to as the floor meeting) town meeting cycle, such as the Budget and
17	Candidates Night meeting and the Town and School District Day meeting.
18	The Town Clerk shall appoint one member for a two-year term. The
19	Selectboard shall appoint one member for a two-year term and one member for
20	a three-year term. The School Board shall appoint one member for a two-year
21	term and one member for a three-year term. No School Board member,

### BILL AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE 2017

1	Selectboard member, or Town Clerk may serve on the School and Town
2	Meeting Committee. Each appointing body or person shall have the power to
3	remove any incumbent member of the School and Town Meeting Committee
4	appointed by that body or person and shall have the power to appoint a
5	replacement member to serve the unexpired term of any person who is
6	removed or who resigns.
7	* * *
8	(e) Meetings, dates, times, votes, ballots:
9	(1) Pretown Budget and Candidates Night meeting. At 7:00 p.m. on the
10	final Monday night in February that meets the statutory warning requirement
11	for the town meeting day Australian ballot vote at a place determined by the
12	School and Town Meeting Committee eight days prior to Voting Day, a Town
13	and School District budget discussion and candidates night meeting shall be
14	called for the purpose of:
15	* * *
16	(C) any other appropriate informational matters or discussion of
17	articles to be voted on by Australian ballot.
18	(2) <u>Town and School District Meeting Day</u> . The annual Town and
19	School District floor meetings shall be called and held on the Saturday
20	preceding Voting Day held under subdivision (3) of this subsection, subject to
21	change as provided by general law. The floor meetings shall:

# BILL AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATEH.5242017Page 4 of 8

1	(A) be the venue for any public hearing to be held in advance of
2	Voting Day;
3	(B) receive the reports of Town and School District officers;
4	(C) determine the compensation to be paid Town and School District
5	officers for the ensuing year;
6	(D) serve as the public informational hearing for matters to be
7	considered by Australian ballot; and
8	(E) conduct other business not determined at Australian ballot
9	election.
10	(3) Voting Day. Voting Day Australian ballot/election day. Australian
11	ballot/election day shall be on Vermont Town Meeting Day, the first Tuesday
12	in March, at which time any business, budgets, and candidate election
13	involving Australian ballots will be transacted beginning at 7 a.m. until closing
14	at 7 p.m. The Town budget as warned by the Selectboard and the School
15	District budget as warned by the School Board shall be submitted to the
16	electorate at this Town election. A majority vote shall be a simple majority of
17	votes cast in this election. Under All public questions and all matters relating
18	to the adoption of the Town and School District budgets shall be considered by
19	Australian ballot under this subdivision:
20	* * *
21	(3) Floor meeting. The annual Town and School District floor meeting

#### BILL AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE Page 5 of 8 2017

	10
shall be called for the fourth Saturday following the Australian ballot/election	£
day held under subdivision (2) of this subsection. If the Town or School	
District budget fails in the Australian ballot, deciding votes at the floor	
meeting shall provide a further opportunity for consideration of any rejected	
budget and a final vote by the Town voters. In addition to budget votes, the	
floor meeting may consider:	

H.524

- 7 (A) the state of the Town and of the School District;
- 8 (B) long-range planning, capital improvement projections;
- 9 (C) other business not determined at Australian ballot election.
- \* \* \* 10

#### 11 (h) Presiding officials:

- 12 (1) A Moderator shall preside at pretown meeting, the floor meeting, all
- 13 town meeting cycle events, such as Budget and Candidates Night, Town and
- 14 School District Meeting Day, and any special Town or School District
- 15 meetings. In the Moderator's absence, the Town Clerk shall appoint a
- 16 Moderator Pro Tempore to preside for the duration of the meeting.
- 18
- § 202. ELECTED OFFICERS
- 20 (e) The elected officers of the Town shall be:
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## BILL AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATEH.5242017Page 6 of 8

1	(3) a Town Clerk, elected for a three-year term;
2	(4) three listers, one elected each year for three years;
3	(5) a Town Treasurer, elected for a three-year term;
4	(6) three trustees of public funds, one elected each year for three years;
5	(7)(4) all other Town officers provided in this chapter or State statute.
6	* * *
7	(h) Compensation for elected officers of the Town and School District shall
8	be determined by vote at the annual Town and School District meeting as a
9	separate item in the annual Town and School District budgets as provided in
10	subdivision 201(e)(2)(C) of this chapter.
11	§ 203. DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS
12	(a) Selectboard.
13	* * *
14	(2) Organization.
15	* * *
16	(E) The presence of four or more members shall constitute a quorum
17	for the purposes of holding a meeting. The affirmative vote of a simple
18	majority of the members present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is
19	present shall be necessary to adopt any matter before the Selectboard.
20	* * *
21	(4) Powers and duties.

## BILL AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATEH.5242017Page 7 of 8

1	* * *
2	(B) Powers. The Selectboard may:
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3	<u>ት</u> ት ት
4	(3) [Repealed.]
5	* * *
6	(c) Town Clerk. The Town Clerk shall be appointed by and shall serve at
7	the pleasure of the Selectboard. The Town Clerk shall perform all duties and
8	responsibilities prescribed by the laws of the State of Vermont and any
9	additional duties set forth in this chapter.
10	(d) Listers: Assessor. The Selectboard shall contract with or employ a
11	qualified professional assessor, who need not be a resident of the Town. The
12	Assessor shall have the same powers and responsibilities, and shall perform the
13	same functions as prescribed by law for listers and boards of listers.
14	(1) shall perform all duties and responsibilities prescribed by this
15	chapter and the State of Vermont;
16	(2) may appoint professional appraisers to help perform their duties. An
17	appraiser shall be under the direction and supervision of the elected listers and
18	shall adhere to all personnel rules and regulations of the Town.
19	(e) <u>Trustees of Public Funds</u> . The Selectboard may appoint annually one
20	trustee of public funds if a qualified candidate presents themselves, otherwise
21	these duties shall be assumed by the Town Manager or his or her designee.

## BILL AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATEH.5242017Page 8 of 8

1	(f) All others. Any other elected officials of the Town or School District
2	shall have powers and duties proscribed prescribed to that office as specified in
3	the general law.
4	* * *
5	§ 302. DUTIES OF APPOINTED OFFICERS; TOWN MANAGER
6	Town Manager. The duties of the Town Manager shall include:
7	* * *
8	Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE
9	This act shall take effect on passage.