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H.524

Introduced by Representatives Christie of Hartford, Buckholz of Hartford, and
Lucke of Hartford

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Municipal government; municipal charters; Town of Hartford;
amendments

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to approve
amendments to the charter of the Town of Hartford.

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of
Hartford

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

The General Assembly approves the amendments to the charter of the Town
of Hartford as set forth in this act. Proposals of amendments were approved
by the voters on March 7, 2017.

Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 123A is amended to read:

CHAPTER 123A. TOWN OF HARTFORD

* * *

§ 103. PARTICULAR POWERS

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,

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) Town and School District Meeting Day. 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:

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

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.

17 * * *

18 § 202. ELECTED OFFICERS

19 * * *

20 (e) The elected officers of the Town shall be:

21 * * *

- 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.

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(B) Powers. The Selectboard may:

* * *

~~(3) [Repealed.]~~

* * *

(c) Town Clerk. The Town Clerk shall be appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the Selectboard. The Town Clerk shall perform all duties and responsibilities prescribed by the laws of the State of Vermont and any additional duties set forth in this chapter.

(d) ~~Listers:~~ Assessor. The Selectboard shall contract with or employ a qualified professional assessor, who need not be a resident of the Town. The Assessor shall have the same powers and responsibilities, and shall perform the same functions as prescribed by law for listers and boards of listers.

~~(1) shall perform all duties and responsibilities prescribed by this chapter and the State of Vermont;~~

~~(2) may appoint professional appraisers to help perform their duties. An appraiser shall be under the direction and supervision of the elected listers and shall adhere to all personnel rules and regulations of the Town.~~

(e) Trustees of Public Funds. The Selectboard may appoint annually one trustee of public funds if a qualified candidate presents themselves, otherwise these duties shall be assumed by the Town Manager or his or her designee.

