H.335

Introduced by Representatives Koch of Barre Town and McFaun of Barre Town

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Municipal government; municipal charters; town of Barre; amendment

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to approve amendments to the charter of the town of Barre.

An act relating to amending the charter of the town of Barre

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

Sec. 1. CHARTER APPROVAL

The general assembly approves the amendments to the charter of the town of Barre as set forth in this act. Proposals of amendment were approved by the voters on May 11, 2010.

Sec. 2. 24 V.S.A. App. chapter 101 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 101. TOWN OF BARRE

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§ 2. MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

(a) The ~~first Tuesday in March~~ second Tuesday in May shall be the date for the annual election of ~~school district~~ town officers and for voting upon all questions to be decided by Australian ballot. Polls shall be open no less than nine (9) consecutive hours. The ~~schoolboard~~ selectboard may designate one or more polling places within the ~~district~~ town for voting and may provide for the use of any mechanical or computer type devices for voting or counting votes, consistent with requirements of law. The Wednesday evening preceding the date for the annual election of the town officers, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at a place designated by the Barre Town Selectboard, shall be the date of the annual meeting at which time there will be considered all non-Australian ballot matters. However, the voters at any annual election may designate a different date, time or place for annual town elections.

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§ 3. WARNINGS

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(b) The warning shall:

(1) State the date, time, and place of the ~~annual~~ meeting~~, as well as the date, time and place of any informational hearing required to be held by virtue of the use of the Australian ballot system of voting~~;

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§ 7. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

Nominations of persons to fill town offices shall be by petition containing the signatures of at least thirty (30) voters or one (1) percent of the voters, whichever is less. Petitions shall be filed with the town clerk, together with a written assent signed by the nominee. Both petition and written assent shall be filed at least thirty (30) and not more than forty (40) days prior to the election. When a petition is presented to the town clerk for filing, ~~he~~ the town clerk shall immediately examine the same and ascertain whether it conforms to the provisions of this section. If not found in conformity, ~~he~~ the town clerk shall designate the defect in writing and return the petition, together with the written reason for rejection, within six (6) hours, to the candidate in whose behalf it was filed. Such petition may again be presented when properly amended if this can be done within the time allowed for filing such petition. All town elections shall be nonpartisan and no party designation or slogan shall be printed on any town ballot or petition.

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§ 10. ELECTED OFFICERS; GENERAL

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(c) Only a voter of the Town of Barre may seek election to or hold a town elective office, and no person may hold more than one (1) town elective office

at the same time. No person shall hold offices which are defined as incompatible in Vermont statutes.

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§ 12. ~~AUDITOR~~ AUDITORS

Auditors shall be elected for terms of three (3) years, with one (1) elected each year. They shall be responsible for the proper financial accountability of the town, and for this purpose all town officers shall, within thirty (30) days after the close of the fiscal year, submit to the auditors such reports, records and materials as the auditors may require for the discharge of their duties. The auditors shall thereupon proceed to examine and adjust the accounts of all town officers and report their findings in writing, not later than ~~one hundred (100)~~ one hundred eighty-five (185) days after the close of the fiscal year. They shall cause their findings to be printed and made available to the voters. The auditors may employ the services of a certified public accountant at town expense, for such purposes as they shall deem proper. They shall also supervise the preparation, publication, and, within budgetary limitations, the distribution of the annual town report.

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§ 28. BUDGET PREPARATION

(a) At such time as may be prescribed by the ~~board of selectmen~~ selectboard, the town manager shall propose a budget and submit a line

itemized estimate of the income and expenditures required for the operation of the town government for the next ensuing fiscal year.

(b) The ~~selectmen~~ selectboard, with the committee of five (5), shall review and finalize the proposed town budget publicly and prepare it for ~~presentation~~ submission to the voters at the annual town election. Sufficient copies shall be available to the voters not less than ten (10) days prior to the election at the five (5) public places required by Section 3 of this Charter, and the warning shall state the availability of said proposed budget.

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Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.