

1 H.253

2 Introduced by Representatives Greshin of Warren, Komline of Dorset, and

3 Wilson of Manchester

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Municipal government; selectboards; town voters; digitization of

7 town records

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow a
9 selectboard or, when permitted by the selectboard, town voters to vote to
10 maintain town records in a digital format.

11 An act relating to maintaining town records in a digital format

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

13 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 873 is added to read:

14 § 873. DIGITIZATION OF TOWN RECORDS

15 (a) A selectboard may vote to maintain in a digital format the records kept
16 by the town at a meeting warned for that purpose, or may permit the voters of
17 the town to vote on whether to maintain the town records in a digital format at
18 any annual or special meeting warned for that purpose. A vote may authorize
19 the digitization of any town records, including those recorded under section
20 1154 of this title.

1 (b) The warnings required by subsection (a) of this section shall be made in
2 accordance with the provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2641.

3 Sec. 2. 24 V.S.A. § 1154 is amended to read:

4 § 1154. RECORDS; COPIES

5 (a) A town clerk shall record in the land records, at length or by accurate,
6 legible copy, in ~~books to be~~ a format determined and furnished by the town:

7 (1) deeds;

8 (2) instruments or evidences respecting real estate;

9 (3) writs of execution, other writs or the substance thereof, and the
10 returns thereon;

11 (4) hazardous waste site information and hazardous waste storage,
12 treatment and disposal certifications established under 10 V.S.A. chapter 159;

13 (5) underground storage tank information under 10 V.S.A. chapter 59;

14 (6) municipal land use permits (as defined in section 4303 of this title)
15 or notices of municipal land use permits as provided for in subsection (c) of
16 this section, notices of violation of ordinances or bylaws relating to municipal
17 land use, and notices of violation of municipal land use permits;

18 (7) denials of municipal land use permits;

19 (8) permits, design certifications, installation certifications, and other
20 documents required to be filed by the provisions of 10 V.S.A. chapter 64 and
21 the rules adopted under that chapter; and

1 (9) other instruments delivered to the town clerk for recording.

2 (b) A temporary permit (if defined by the bylaws of the municipality) is not
3 required to be recorded.

4 (c) A notice of a municipal land use permit or a notice of violation
5 specified in subdivision (a)(6) of this section may be recorded, and if such
6 notice is recorded, it shall list:

7 (1) as grantor, the owner of record title to the property at the time the
8 municipal land use permit or notice of violation is issued;

9 (2) as grantee, the municipality issuing the permit, certificate, or notice;

10 (3) the municipal or village office where the original, or a true, legible
11 copy of the municipal land use permit may be examined;

12 (4) whether an appeal of such permit, certificate, or notice has been
13 taken; and

14 (5) tax map lot number or other description identifying the lot.

15 (d) ~~The~~ For each type of record recorded, the town clerk shall keep ~~in each~~
16 ~~book of record~~ an index of reference to the instruments or records ~~in~~ included
17 within that ~~book~~ type.

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on passage.