

H.537

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

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 Brattleboro as set forth in this act. Proposals of amendment were approved by the voters of the Special Representative Town Meeting on October 20, 2012.

Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 107 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 107. TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO

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Subchapter 7. Finances

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§ 7.8. OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT

(a) Taxable property within the Town may be reappraised from time to time as may be deemed expedient by the Representative Town Meeting pursuant to a duly warned article.

(b) There shall be an Office of Assessment headed by a professionally qualified assessor or equivalent hereafter known as the Town Assessor, who shall be appointed by the Town Manager.

(c) Except for the duties set forth in subsection (e) of this section, the Town Assessor shall have the authority and shall exercise all powers and shall be responsible to fulfill all duties assigned to the Listers in the Vermont Statutes Annotated and case law, including appraisal of all real and business property for the purpose of establishing the Grand List, as set forth in 32 V.S.A. § 3431. Appraisals shall be reviewed periodically and kept up to date.

(d) Neither the Town Assessor nor any employee of the Office of Assessment staff, nor any independent contractor directly or indirectly providing services for the tax assessing function of the Town may simultaneously serve as a Lister for the Town.

(e) The Board of Listers, elected at large under the authority of § 2.2(5) of this charter, having no appraisal power, shall function as a Board of Appeals with the authority to hear and adjudicate all appeals by citizens disputing Office of Assessment appraisals, and perform other advisory and educational functions for the Office of Assessment.

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Sec. 3. REPEAL

24 App. V.S.A. chapter 107, § 3.3 (reconsideration) is repealed.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.