

Act No. M-13 (H.505). Municipal charters; Village of North Bennington; amendments

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Village of North Bennington

This act amends the charter of the Village of North Bennington. In addition to making amendments that are technical or stylistic in nature, the amendments make the following changes to the charter:

- removes the position of the Collector of Taxes and makes the Village Treasurer the tax collector and removes the penalty of incarceration for failure to pay taxes;
- removes the length of residency requirement to be eligible to vote;
- increases the Board of Trustee terms to three years and aligns the Treasurer's term to that of the fiscal year;
- allows the Board of Trustees to create and fill commissions and committees, to inquire into conduct of officials, and investigate all municipal affairs;
- changes the title of the Street Commissioner to the Highway Superintendent;
- removes the authority of the Fire Chief to require inhabitants to assist in fighting fires and allows the Fire Chief to be designated as the Fire Warden and Emergency Management Director;
- removes specific fines and penalties and provides that they may be set by ordinance or bylaw;
- provides the Village with the discretion to appoint a Police Chief, rather than requiring an appointment;
- removes the five percent limit on interest for borrowing money and allows for bonds to be payable at times and in a manner as the Board of Trustees may direct;
- moves the description of the boundaries of the Village into an appendix; and
- sets up transitional provisions to allow for the staggered terms of the Board of Trustees.

Effective Date: February 24, 2016