H.788

Introduced by Representative McDonald of Berlin

Referred to Committee on

Date:

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

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

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the town of Berlin

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 Berlin as provided in this act. Proposals of amendment were approved by the voters on March 2, 2010.

Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 105 § 42 is amended to read:

§ 42. ELECTED OFFICERS

The following officers of the town and such other town officers as are provided by law and previous vote of the electorate as to number, length of

term and manner of election at an annual meeting shall be elected by Australian ballot, unless otherwise stated, and shall include the following:

(1) A moderator to be elected by paper ballot from the floor, for a term of one year;

(2) A town clerk, for a term of three years;

(3) Selectboard members, three of whom shall serve staggered three year terms and two of whom shall serve one year terms;

(4) ~~Listers, for terms of three years, staggered to ensure no more than one term ends in any particular year;~~

~~(5)~~ Such other town officers as the town shall order as provided by law.

Sec. 3. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 105 § 50 is added to read:

§ 50. ASSESSOR

(a) The selectboard may appoint an assessor or arrange for assessing services. Appointees shall be competent in assessment procedures and shall serve at the pleasure of the selectboard. *Appointees shall have the same powers, duties, responsibilities, and liabilities as established by law for listers, except as otherwise provided in this charter.*

(b) Prior to appointing an assessor, the selectboard shall appoint a committee, composed of three members of the selectboard and four residents of the town of Berlin, to review and recommend to the selectboard qualified candidates for the position of assessor. The committee shall have the authority to solicit candidates,

to advertise notice of the vacancy in the assessor's position, and to make such investigation of a candidate's credentials and background as the committee deems appropriate. Upon completion of the investigation and interviewing of candidates, the committee shall submit to the selectboard the names of those candidates deemed qualified for the position of assessor. The selectboard shall appoint an assessor from among those deemed qualified by the committee. In the event that the committee does not submit at least three qualified candidates to the selectboard, the selectboard shall either appoint an assessor from among the qualified candidates or notify the committee, in writing, that none of the candidates shall be appointed. The committee shall then reconvene and submit the names of additional qualified candidates to the selectboard.

(c) The selectboard shall appoint an assessor or, if applicable, notify the committee that none of the candidates shall be appointed, no later than 30 days following submission of the names of candidates deemed qualified by the committee.

(d) Members of the committee described in subsection (b) of this section shall serve until an assessor is appointed by the selectboard. Meetings of the committee shall be warned and conducted as public meetings in accordance with the requirements of Vermont statutes and this charter, and the committee shall be entitled to meet in executive session as authorized by Vermont statutes.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect upon passage.