

1 **Representative Wilson of Manchester - change reassessment**
2 **reimbursement threshold to 0.3% and reimburse towns for 50% of legal**
3 **costs in a successful defense of a property tax appeal**

4 Sec. 1. 32 V.S.A. § 5412(a)(1)(C) is amended to read:

5 (C) as a result of the valuation reduction of the parcel, the value of
6 the municipality's grand list is reduced at least three-tenths of one percent.

7 Sec. 2. 32 V.S.A. § 4461(e) is added to read:

8 (e)(1) The Department of Taxes shall reimburse a town for fifty percent of
9 any reasonable legal costs, including expert witness fees and reasonable
10 attorney's fees, in the defense of an appeal taken from a board of civil
11 authority, provided that:

12 (i) the municipality is the prevailing party in the appeal;

13 (ii) the final disposition of the appeal or settlement resulted in a
14 higher valuation for the property in question than the value sought by the
15 property owner; and

16 (iii) the appeal, when originally filed with the Director or the
17 Superior Court, included a claim for a change in value that is equal to or
18 greater than three-tenths of one percent of the municipality's grand list.

19 (2) A town eligible for reimbursement under subdivision (1) shall apply
20 to the Tax Department for reimbursement within 60 of the final disposition or

1 settlement of the appeal. The Department of Taxes is authorized to adopt rules
2 or procedures necessary to implement this subsection.

3 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 4025(c) is amended to read:

4 (c) An equalization and reappraisal account is established within the
5 education fund. Moneys from this account are to be used by the division of
6 property valuation and review to assist towns with maintenance or reappraisal
7 on a case-by-case basis; to make payments under 32 V.S.A. § 4461(e), and for
8 reappraisal and grand list maintenance assistance payments pursuant to 32
9 V.S.A. §§ 4041a and 5405(f).

10 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

11 This act shall take effect July 1, 2014 and apply to property tax appeals filed
12 after that date.