

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Ways and Means to which was referred House Bill No. 87  
3 entitled “An act relating to prorating the cost of property tax appeals”

4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the  
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in  
6 lieu thereof the following:

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

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

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

11 (e)(1) The Department of Taxes shall reimburse a town for 50 percent of  
12 any reasonable legal costs, including expert witness fees and reasonable  
13 attorney’s fees, in the defense of an appeal taken from a board of civil  
14 authority, provided that:

15 (A) the municipality is the prevailing party in the appeal;

16 (B) the final disposition of the appeal or settlement resulted in a  
17 higher valuation for the property in question than the value sought by the  
18 property owner; and

19 (C) the appeal, when originally filed with the Director or the Superior  
20 Court, included a claim for a change in value that is equal to or greater than  
21 three-tenths of one percent of the municipality’s grand list.

1           (2) A town eligible for reimbursement under subdivision (1) of this  
2           subsection shall apply to the Department of Taxes for reimbursement within 60  
3           days of the final disposition or settlement of the appeal. The Department of  
4           Taxes is authorized to adopt rules or procedures necessary to implement this  
5           subsection.

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

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

13           Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

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

16           and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating  
17           to property tax appeals”.

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20           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE