

H.53 of 2000

Legislation resulting from 1999
Commission on Property Tax
Exemptions

Commission recommendations on public, pious and charitable

- The Commission recommended:
 - Public, pious and charitable properties would remain exempt from statewide education property taxes
 - Decisions on whether a property was exempt from statewide education properties taxes would be appealable to the State (PVR)
 - Towns would have the option to exempt pious, public, and charitable properties from municipal taxes

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- Passed by the House ➡ No action in the Senate
- Streamlined language of 32 VSA 3802, which is the list of properties exempt from both education and municipal taxes.
- However, the bill put public, pious, and charitable property in a separate category that was exempt from statewide education taxes, but not automatically exempt from municipal taxes.

H.53 – public, pious, charitable properties

- PVR would certify if a property qualified for public, pious or charitable exemption under American Fly Fishing Museum test.
- Once certified, a property was exempt from the statewide education tax.
- Once certified, a town had the option of voting to exempt the property from municipal taxes for a renewable five year period.

H.53 – college and university property

- Maintained the general education and municipal tax exemptions for college and university property.
- Repealed the complicated valuation freeze for property acquired after 1941.
- Required towns and colleges and universities to enter into agreements for municipal services.

H.53 – college and university property municipal service agreements

“A town and a nonprofit college or university shall negotiate an agreement for payment to the town for municipal services. The amount of the payment shall be based upon the value of town services and benefits provided or available to the college or university, offset by the value of the services and benefits provided to the community by the college or university which reduce the cost of providing municipal services.”

H.53 – college and university property municipal service agreements

- If an agreement could not be reached, the parties were required to arbitrate.
- If a town refused to negotiate, the college or university owed no money.
- If a college or university refused to negotiate, it paid a fee of 50% of the municipal tax that would have otherwise been owed on any exempt property.

H.53 – Handouts

- Background Information – prepared by Legislative Council
- Section by section – prepared by Legislative Council
- As passed the House version of H.53