

H.602

An act relating to municipal budget committees

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2646 is amended to read:

§ 2646. TOWN OFFICERS; QUALIFICATION; ELECTION

At the annual meeting, a town shall choose from among its legally qualified voters the following town officers, who shall serve until the next annual meeting and until successors are chosen, unless otherwise provided by law:

\* \* \*

(8) A collector of current taxes, if the town so ~~orders~~ votes;

(9) A collector of delinquent taxes, if the town so ~~orders~~ votes, for a term of one year unless a town votes that a collector of delinquent taxes shall be elected for a term of three years. When a town votes for a three-year term for the collector of delinquent taxes, that three-year term shall remain in effect until the town rescinds it by the majority vote of the legal voters present and voting at an annual meeting, duly warned for that purpose;

\* \* \*

(12) A trustee of public funds if the town ~~has so ordered~~ votes;

\* \* \*

(14) A cemetery commissioner if the town ~~has so ordered~~ votes;

(15) One or more patrol officers to patrol town highways under the direction of the selectboard, if the town so ~~orders~~ votes;

(16) One or two road commissioners who shall be elected by ballot if the town ~~has so ordered~~ votes; otherwise they shall be appointed by the selectboard as provided in section 2651 of this chapter. The road commissioners shall be elected for a term of one year unless a town votes that the commissioners shall be elected for a term of two or three years. When a town votes for a two-year or three-year term for the office of road commissioner, that two-year or three-year term shall remain in effect until the town rescinds it by the majority vote of the legal voters present and voting at an annual meeting, duly warned for that purpose;

(17) Three water commissioners unless the town votes to elect additional selectboard members, in which case the number of water commissioners shall, at the discretion of the selectboard, be the same as the number of members that comprise the selectboard. The commissioners shall be elected by ballot if the town ~~has so ordered~~ votes; otherwise they shall be appointed by the selectboard as provided in section 2651 of this chapter;

(18) Five members of an advisory budget committee, if the town so votes, unless the town votes to elect additional advisory budget committee members. The advisory budget committee members shall be elected by ballot, unless the town votes to have those members appointed by the selectboard.

Sec. 2. 24 V.S.A. chapter 33, subchapter 14 is added to read:

Subchapter 14. Budget Committee

§ 1147. ADVISORY BUDGET COMMITTEE CREATION; DUTIES

If a municipality creates an advisory budget committee as provided in 17 V.S.A. § 2646, the committee shall evaluate the municipality's budget and make recommendations to the selectboard for the budget based on its findings.

Sec. 3. EFFECT OF ACT; PREVIOUS TOWN ORDERS

A town that has ordered the election of officers under the provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2646 prior to the effective date of Sec. 1 of this act may continue to elect those officers after the effective date of Sec. 1 of this act.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.