

1 H.213

2 Introduced by Representatives Scheuermann of Stowe, Botzow of Pownal,
3 Browning of Arlington, Forguites of Springfield, Manwaring of
4 Wilmington, Marcotte of Coventry, and Myers of Essex

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: County government; county officers; county tax; procedure for
8 approval

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that
10 county budgets prepared by assistant judges be approved by a majority of
11 selectboards within the county representing a majority of the county
12 population.

13 An act relating to approving county budgets

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

15 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 133 is amended to read:

16 § 133. COUNTY TAX; AMOUNT; ASSESSMENT

17 (a)(1) Annually, the assistant judges shall prepare a proposed budget of the
18 county for the ensuing year.

19 ~~(b) Before a budget to be proposed at the annual meeting is finalized, the~~
20 ~~assistant judges shall hold a meeting to invite discussion of the preliminary~~

1 ~~proposed budget. The meeting to review the preliminary proposed budget~~
2 ~~shall take place at least 30 and not more than 40 days prior to the annual~~
3 ~~meeting. Notice of this meeting shall be published in all daily newspapers~~
4 ~~having general circulation in the county at least 14 days before the meeting. If~~
5 ~~a daily newspaper of general circulation is not published in the county, the~~
6 ~~notice shall be published in a weekly newspaper of general circulation in the~~
7 ~~county. A copy of the notice shall be mailed to the legislative bodies of the~~
8 ~~towns located in the county.~~

9 ~~(e) Annually, on or before January 31, the assistant judges shall call a~~
10 ~~meeting of the voters of the county for the purpose of presenting the proposed~~
11 ~~budget of the county for the ensuing year and inviting discussion thereon~~

12 (2) On the first Thursday in November, the assistant judges shall present
13 the proposed county budget to the selectboards and voters of the county and
14 invite discussion thereon at a meeting duly warned for the purpose.

15 (3)(A) The meeting shall be held at a place within the county and shall
16 be warned by a notice posted in ~~three public places~~ at least one public place in
17 each town in the county and published in all daily newspapers having general
18 circulation in the county at least 30 and not more than 40 days prior to the
19 meeting. If a daily newspaper of general circulation is not published in the
20 county, the notice shall be published in a weekly newspaper of general
21 circulation in the county.

1 (B) The warning shall include a summary of the expenditures being
2 proposed for the various areas covered by the proposed budget and shall
3 provide the public with information about how a copy of the proposal may be
4 obtained.

5 (C) Members of legislative bodies of each of the towns within the
6 county shall be notified of the meeting by mail.

7 (D) Copies of the proposed budget shall be available to the public
8 during normal business hours in the county courthouse and in the office of the
9 clerks of the towns located in the county.

10 (b)(1) The judges may revise the proposed budget after the meeting
11 required by subsection (a) of this section. If the judges revise the proposed
12 budget, they shall submit the revised proposed budget, which shall supersede
13 the original proposed budget, by mail to the selectboards of the county no later
14 than 14 days after the meeting required by subsection (a) of this section.

15 (2) Notice of a revised proposed budget and a summary of the revisions
16 shall be posted in at least one public place in each town in the county and
17 published in all daily newspapers having general circulation in the county at
18 least 14 and not more than 21 days after the meeting required by subsection (a)
19 of this section. If a daily newspaper of general circulation is not published in
20 the county, the notice shall be published in a weekly newspaper of general
21 circulation in the county.

1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.