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	(c) 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.

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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

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1	(3) Copies of the revised proposed budget shall be available to the
2	public during normal business hours in the county courthouse and in the office
3	of the clerks of the towns located in the county.
4	(c)(1) At the first regularly scheduled meeting in January, each selectboard
5	of the county shall meet in its respective town and vote by majority vote on
6	whether to approve the proposed county budget.
7	(2) If a majority of the selectboards within the county representing a
8	majority of the county population votes to approve the proposed budget, the
9	budget shall take effect for the coming fiscal year. If that majority rejects the
10	proposed budget, the budget shall be frozen at its current level.
11	(d) Annually, not less than 14 nor more than 21 days following the county
12	meeting provided in subsection (c) of this section On the first Thursday in
13	February, the assistant judges shall review the proposed budget of the county
14	in light of any discussion thereon at the county meeting and, if deemed
15	expedient, make and deliver to the county treasurer a written order directing
16	the treasurer to issue, on or before March 1 following, the statements required
17	by 32 V.S.A. § 4965, and warrants to the several treasurers of the towns for the
18	collection of a tax sufficient to pay such indebtedness and estimated expense,
19	but the whole amount of such tax shall not exceed in one year five cents on a
20	dollar of the equalized grand list of such county.

- 1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.