



Senate Government Operations Committee

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Issues Affecting Local Governments Addressed in Senate Government Operations

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Enable municipalities to hold vote of the people to authorize Selectboard to appoint rather than elect Town Treasurer. (4 such charter changes in 2014 - E. Montpelier, N. Branch Fire District, Panton, Westford)

Enable municipalities to hold vote of the people to authorize Selectboard to appoint rather than elect the Town Agent (Milton Charter Change in 2014)

Governance Charters, Method of Ratification and Municipal Self Governance

Self governance for shire cities and towns? Towns and cities of more than a certain population? Or with a certain governance structure? Or only with respect to certain matters?

This is the year in which constitutional amendments may be considered.

Municipal Tool Box Issues:

24 2201 subsection B. Throwing depositing or dumping solid waste penalty should be \$800 to be consistent with other penalties at Judicial Bureau.

Nominating of ZA 4448 subsection a "shall be nominated by the planning commission" to "may be nominated by the planning commission".

When towns are supposed to disburse social service organizations payments.

Social service payments don't have to be disbursed until after first installment of taxes. "Towns may disburse social service appropriations after the first installment of taxes". Funds that are not requested before the next annual town meeting shall revert to the general fund.

Dog Law: 20 VSA 3581 (f) clerk shall forward fees collected to state treasurer. Should say that the treasurer shall forward fees to the state treasurer with a copy of the clerk's sworn statement.

20 3546 (Investigation of Vicious Domestic Pets or Wolf Hybrids) subsection e. says these statutory procedures shall not apply if the voters have authorized the Selectboard to regulate such events by ordinance. It should simply say the selectboard may adopt an ordinance providing otherwise.

20 VSA 3807 (Killing a domestic Pet or Wolf-Hybrid) (a) This still says may "immediately kill". It should conform to other statutes which say officials must wait ten days.

Provide the Selectboard sole authority to represent the town in tax appeal cases.

23 VSA 1752 (Authorizes towing of vehicles and use of Denver boot) and 1753 (Authorizes ordinances regulating parking and towing). Those violations have to be handled by a police court. If no police court, then you can't have towing ordinance.

Move section into the Judicial Bureau jurisdiction in addition to police court.

Public Safety Matters

Open Meeting and Public Records amendments

