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H.372

Introduced by Representatives Sibia of Dover, Forguites of Springfield, and
Olsen of Londonderry

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Elections; local elections; grand juror and town agent; elimination;
assignment of duties

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow a town
to eliminate the office of grand juror or of town agent by vote and to require
that a town eliminating either of those offices assign the duties of that office to
an appropriate town officer.

An act relating to allowing towns to eliminate the offices of grand juror and
town agent

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 registered voters
the following town officers, who shall serve until the next annual meeting and
until successors are chosen, unless otherwise provided by law:

- (1) A moderator.

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(10) One or more grand jurors, unless the town has voted to eliminate the office of grand juror in accordance with the provisions of section 2651e of this chapter.

(11) A town agent to prosecute and defend suits in which the town or town school district is interested, unless the town has voted to eliminate the office of town agent in accordance with the provisions of section 2651f of this chapter.

* * *

Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2651e is added to read:

§ 2651e. ELIMINATION OF OFFICE OF GRAND JUROR; ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES

(a)(1) A town may vote by ballot at an annual meeting to eliminate the office of grand juror. If a town votes to eliminate the office of grand juror, the selectboard shall assign grand juror duties to a registered voter when necessary. The assigned registered voter shall have the same powers, discharge the same duties, and be subject to the same liabilities as an elected grand juror.

(2) A vote to eliminate the office of grand juror shall remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote of the legal voters present and voting, by ballot, at an annual meeting duly warned for that purpose.

1 (b) The term of office of any grand juror in office on the date a town votes
2 to eliminate that office shall expire on the 45th day after such vote.

3 (c) The authority to vote to eliminate the office of grand juror as provided
4 in this section shall extend to all towns except those towns that have a charter
5 that specifically provides for the election or appointment of the office of grand
6 juror.

7 Sec. 3. 17 V.S.A. § 2651f is added to read:

8 § 2651f. ELIMINATION OF OFFICE OF TOWN AGENT; ASSIGNMENT
9 OF DUTIES

10 (a)(1) A town may vote by ballot at an annual meeting to eliminate the
11 office of town agent. If a town votes to eliminate the office of town agent, the
12 selectboard shall assign town agent duties to a registered voter when necessary.
13 The assigned registered voter shall have the same powers, discharge the same
14 duties, and be subject to the same liabilities as an elected town agent.

15 (2) A vote to eliminate the office of town agent shall remain in effect
16 until rescinded by majority vote of the legal voters present and voting, by
17 ballot, at an annual meeting duly warned for that purpose.

18 (b) The term of office of any town agent in office on the date a town votes
19 to eliminate that office shall expire on the 45th day after such vote.

20 (c) The authority to vote to eliminate the office of town agent as provided
21 in this section shall extend to all towns except those towns that have a charter

1 that specifically provides for the election or appointment of the office of town
2 agent.

3 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.