

Journal of the Senate

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Devotional Exercises

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rabbi Amy Joy Small of Burlington.

Message from the House No. 53

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Ms. Rebecca Silbernagel, its Second Assistant Clerk, as follows:

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that:

The House has considered a bill originating in the Senate of the following title:

S. 85. An act relating to simplifying government for small businesses.

And has passed the same in concurrence with proposal of amendment in the adoption of which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The House has considered Senate proposals of amendment to the following House bills:

H. 294. An act relating to inquiries about an applicant's salary history.

H. 333. An act relating to identification of gender-free restrooms in public buildings and places of public accommodation.

H. 603. An act relating to human trafficking.

And has severally concurred therein.

Senate Bill Recommended

H. 903.

Senate bill entitled:

An act relating to regenerative farming.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, on motion of Senator Starr, the bill was recommitted to the Committee on Agriculture.

Bill Referred to Committee on Appropriations

H. 897.

House bill of the following title, appearing on the Calendar for notice, and carrying an appropriation or requiring the expenditure of funds, under the rule, was referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

An act relating to enhancing the effectiveness, availability, and equity of services provided to students who require additional support.

**Message from the Governor
Appointments Referred**

A message was received from the Governor, by Brittney L. Wilson, Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs, submitting the following appointments, which were referred to committees as indicated:

Howland, William G. of Isle La Monte - Member of the VT Citizens' Advisory Council on Lake Champlain's Future - from April 15, 2018 to February 28, 2021.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Fischer, Robert of Barre - Member of the VT Citizens' Advisory Council on Lake Champlain's Future - from April 15, 2018 to February 28, 2021.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Kolsun, Michael W. of Island Pond - Member of the Fish and Wildlife Board - from April 15, 2018 to February 29, 2024.

To the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

**Proposal of Amendment; Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of
Amendment**

H. 915.

House bill entitled:

An act relating to the protection of pollinators.

Was taken up.

Thereupon, pending third reading of the bill, Senators Baruth, Balint, Bray, Campion and Sirotkin move to amend the Senate proposal of amendment as follows:

First: In Sec. 4 (report on impact of neonicotinoid-treated seeds on pollinators), in subsection (a), after the following: “beekeepers.” and before the following: “On or before January 15, 2019,” by inserting the following: As part of the assessment, the Secretary shall review the recommendations of the Pollinator Protection Committee for reducing pollinator losses that were submitted to the General Assembly in February of 2017 in the report required under 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 83.

And in subdivision (a)(3), by striking out the word “and” following the semicolon

And by striking out subdivision (a)(4) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof new subdivisions (a)(4) and (5) to read as follows:

(4) a State pollinator protection plan as required by 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 83; and

(5) recommendations for preventing pollinator losses in Vermont.

Second: By striking out Sec. 6, Effective Date, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof Secs. 6, 7 and 8 to read as follows:

Sec. 6. 6 V.S.A. § 1101 is amended to read:

§ 1101. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

* * *

(4) “Economic poison” shall have the meaning stated in subdivision 911(5) of this title.

* * *

(6) “Pesticide” for the purposes of this chapter shall be used interchangeably with “economic poison.”

* * *

(8) “Neonicotinoid pesticide” means any economic poison containing a chemical belonging to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals, including:

(A) imidacloprid;

(B) nithiazine;

(C) acetamiprid;

(D) clothianidin;

(E) dinotefuran;

(F) thiacloprid;

(G) thiamethoxam; and

(H) any other chemical designated by the Secretary by rule.

(9) “Ornamental plants” means any shrub, bush, tree, or other plant used or intended for a use other than farming as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6001.

Sec. 7. 6 V.S.A. § 1105b is added to read:

§ 1105b. APPLICATION OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES

A person shall not apply neonicotinoid pesticides to ornamental plants in the State, except:

(1) as authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets under a right-of-way permit for the application of pesticides; or

(2) as authorized for application on a golf course regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect passage, except that Secs. 6 and 7 (neonicotinoid pesticide application to ornamental plants) shall take effect January 1, 2021.

Which was agreed to on a roll call, Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Senator Pollina having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Ayer, Balint, Baruth, Benning, Branagan, Bray, Brock, Brooks, Campion, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Flory, Ingram, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Nitka, Pearson, Pollina, Rodgers, Sears, Sirotkin, Soucy, Starr, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Ashe.

Thereupon, the bill was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment which was agreed to on a roll call, Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Senator Branagan having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Ashe, Balint, Baruth, Benning, Branagan, Bray, Brock, Brooks, Campion, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Flory, Ingram, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Nitka, Pearson, Pollina, Rodgers, Sears, Sirotkin, Soucy, Starr, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

The Senator absent and not voting was: Ayer.

Bill Passed in Concurrence with Proposals of Amendment**H. 593.**

House bill of the following title:

An act relating to miscellaneous consumer protection provisions.

Was read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposals of amendment on a roll call, Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Senator Sirotkin having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Ashe, Ayer, Balint, Baruth, Benning, Branagan, Bray, Brock, Brooks, Campion, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Flory, Ingram, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Nitka, Pearson, Pollina, Rodgers, Sears, Sirotkin, Soucy, Starr, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

Bills Passed in Concurrence with Proposal of Amendment

House bills of the following titles were severally read the third time and passed in concurrence with proposal of amendment:

H. 676. An act relating to miscellaneous energy subjects.

H. 892. An act relating to regulation of short-term, limited-duration health insurance coverage and association health plans.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Reading Ordered**H. 711.**

Senator Soucy, for the Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to employment protections for crime victims.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Employment Protection for Crime Victims * * *

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 495 is amended to read:

§ 495. UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE

(a) It shall be unlawful employment practice, except where a bona fide occupational qualification requires persons of a particular race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, place of birth, age, crime victim status, or physical or mental condition:

(1) For any employer, employment agency, or labor organization to discriminate against any individual because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, place of birth, crime victim status, or age or against a qualified individual with a disability;

(2) For any person seeking employees or for any employment agency or labor organization to cause to be printed, published, or circulated any notice or advertisement relating to employment or membership indicating any preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination based upon race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, place of birth, crime victim status, age, or disability;

(3) For any employment agency to fail or refuse to classify properly or refer for employment or to otherwise discriminate against any individual because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, place of birth, crime victim status, or age or against a qualified individual with a disability;

(4) For any labor organization, because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, place of birth, crime victim status, or age to discriminate against any individual or against a qualified individual with a disability or to limit, segregate, or qualify its membership;

* * *

Sec. 2. 21 V.S.A. § 495d is amended to read:

§ 495d. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

* * *

(14) “Pregnancy-related condition” means a limitation of an employee’s ability to perform the functions of a job caused by pregnancy, childbirth, or a medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth.

(15) “Crime victim” means any of the following:

(A) a person who has obtained a relief from abuse order issued under 15 V.S.A. § 1103;

(B) a person who has obtained an order against stalking or sexual assault issued under 12 V.S.A. chapter 178;

(C) a person who has obtained an order against abuse of a vulnerable adult issued under 33 V.S.A. chapter 69; or

(D)(i) a victim as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 5301, provided that the victim is identified as a crime victim in an affidavit filed by a law enforcement official with a prosecuting attorney of competent state or federal jurisdiction; and

(ii) shall include the victim’s child, stepchild, foster child, parent, spouse, or a ward of the victim who lives with the victim, or a parent of the victim’s spouse, provided that the individual is not identified in the affidavit as the defendant.

Sec. 3. 21 V.S.A. § 472c is added to read:

§ 472c. LEAVE; CRIME VICTIMS

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Employer” means an individual, organization, governmental body, partnership, association, corporation, legal representative, trustee, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, and any common carrier by rail, motor, water, air, or express company doing business in or operating within this State.

(2) “Employee” means a person who is a crime victim as defined in section 495d of this chapter and, in consideration of direct or indirect gain or profit, has been continuously employed by the same employer for a period of six months for an average of at least 20 hours per week.

(b) In addition to the leave provided in section 472 of this title, an employee shall be entitled to take unpaid leave from employment for the purpose of attending a deposition or court proceeding related to:

(1) a criminal proceeding, when the employee is a victim as defined in 13 V.S.A. § 5301 and the employee has a right or obligation to appear at the proceeding;

(2) a relief from abuse hearing pursuant to 15 V.S.A. § 1103, when the employee seeks the order as plaintiff;

(3) a hearing concerning an order against stalking or sexual assault pursuant to 12 V.S.A. § 5133, when the employee seeks the order as plaintiff; or

(4) a relief from abuse, neglect, or exploitation hearing pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 69, when the employee is the plaintiff.

(c) During the leave, at the employee's option, the employee may use accrued sick leave, vacation leave, or any other accrued paid leave. Use of accrued paid leave shall not extend the leave provided pursuant to this section.

(d) The employer shall continue employment benefits for the duration of the leave at the level and under the conditions coverage would be provided if the employee continued in employment continuously for the duration of the leave. The employer may require that the employee contribute to the cost of benefits during the leave at the existing rate of employee contribution.

(e) The employer shall post and maintain in a conspicuous place in and about each of its places of business printed notices of the provisions of this section on forms provided by the Commissioner of Labor.

(f)(1) Upon return from leave taken under this section, an employee shall be offered the same or comparable job at the same level of compensation, employment benefits, seniority, or any other term or condition of the employment existing on the day leave began.

(2) This subsection shall not apply if, prior to requesting leave, the employee had been given notice or had given notice that the employment would terminate.

(3) This subsection shall not apply if the employer can demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that during the period of leave the employee's job would have been terminated or the employee would have been laid off for reasons unrelated to the leave or the condition for which the leave was granted.

(g) An employer may adopt a leave policy more generous than the leave provided by this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to diminish an employer's obligation to comply with any collective bargaining agreement or any employment benefit program or plan that provides greater leave rights than the rights provided by this section. A collective bargaining agreement or employment benefit program or plan shall not diminish rights provided by this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, an employee may, at the time a need for leave arises, waive some or all of the rights under this section, provided that the waiver is informed and voluntary and that any

changes in conditions of employment related to the waiver shall be mutually agreed upon between the employer and the employee.

(h) Subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to an employer that provides goods or services to the general public if the employee's absence would require the employer to suspend all business operations at a location that is open to the general public.

* * * Employment Protection for Volunteer First Responders * * *

Sec. 4. 21 V.S.A. § 495o is added to read:

§ 495o. VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Emergency medical personnel" shall include "emergency medical personnel," "ambulance service," "emergency medical services," and "first responder service" as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2651.

(2) "Firefighter" shall have the same meaning as in 20 V.S.A. § 3151(3).

(3) "Volunteer emergency responder" means a volunteer firefighter or volunteer emergency medical personnel.

(b) An employer shall not discharge, discriminate, or retaliate against an employee because the employee was absent from work to perform duty as a volunteer emergency responder.

(c) This section shall not apply to:

(1) a public safety agency or provider of emergency medical services if, as determined by the employer, the employee's absence would hinder the availability of public safety or emergency medical services; or

(2) an employer that provides goods or services to the general public if the employee's absence would require the employer to suspend all business operations at a location that is open to the general public.

(d) An employee who is a volunteer emergency responder shall notify his or her employer at the time of hire or at the time that the employee becomes a volunteer emergency responder and shall provide the employer with a written statement signed by the chief of the volunteer fire department or the designated director or chief of the ambulance service or emergency medical services stating that the employee is a volunteer emergency responder.

(e) Nothing in this section shall prohibit an employer from requiring an employee to provide reasonable notice that the employee is leaving work to respond to an emergency.

(f)(1) An employer shall not be required to compensate an employee for time that an employee is absent from employment while performing his or her duty as a volunteer emergency responder.

(2)(A) An employer may require an employee to use any accrued time off for time that the employee is absent from work while performing his or her duty as a volunteer emergency responder, provided that the employer shall compensate the employee for any accrued time off used at his or her normal hourly wage rate.

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2), an employer shall not prevent an employee from performing his or her duty as a volunteer emergency responder due to a lack of accrued time off or paid leave.

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposal of amendment was agreed to on a roll call, Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Senator Sirotkin having demanded the yeas and nays, they were taken and are as follows:

Roll Call

Those Senators who voted in the affirmative were: Ashe, Ayer, Balint, Baruth, Benning, Branagan, Bray, Brock, Brooks, Campion, Clarkson, Collamore, Cummings, Flory, Ingram, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Nitka, Pearson, Pollina, Rodgers, Sears, Sirotkin, Soucy, Starr, Westman, White.

Those Senators who voted in the negative were: None.

Thereupon, third reading of the bill was ordered.

Proposal of Amendment; Third Readings Ordered

H. 806.

Senator Soucy, for the Committee on Institutions, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to the Southeast State Correctional Facility.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. SOUTHEAST STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; REPORT

(a) The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall investigate and analyze options for the future use of the Southeast State Correctional Facility and the surrounding 118.57 acres of land owned by the Department of Buildings and General Services. As part of the investigation, the Commissioner shall consult with the Secretary of Administration and any other State entities that would have a potential use for the facility or land.

(b) On or before December 15, 2018, the Commissioner of Buildings and General Services shall submit a report, which shall include an analysis and recommendations, if any, on the highest and best State use resulting from the investigation described in subsection (a) of this section to the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, the Senate Committee on Institutions, and the Chair of the Town of Windsor Selectboard.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposal of amendment was agreed to, and third reading of the bill was ordered on a division of the Senate, Yeas, 18, Nays 11.

H. 856.

Senator Clarkson, for the Committee on Government Operations, to which was referred House bill entitled:

An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to municipal law.

Reported recommending that the Senate propose to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Municipal Elections and Appointments * * *

Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2651a is amended to read:

§ 2651a. CONSTABLES; APPOINTMENT; REMOVAL

(a)(1) A town may vote by Australian ballot at an annual meeting to authorize the ~~selectmen~~ selectboard to appoint a first constable, and if needed a second constable, in which case at least a first constable shall be appointed.

(2) A constable so appointed may be removed by the ~~selectmen~~ selectboard for just cause after notice and hearing.

(3) When a town votes to authorize the ~~selectmen~~ selectboard to appoint constables, the ~~selectmen's~~ selectboard's authority to make such appointments shall remain in effect until the town rescinds that authority by the majority vote of the ~~legal~~ registered voters present and voting at an annual meeting, duly warned for that purpose.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) to the contrary, a vote to authorize the ~~selectmen~~ selectboard to appoint constables shall become effective only upon a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, if a written protest against the authorization is filed with the ~~legislative body~~ selectboard at least 15 days before the vote by at least five percent of the voters of the municipality town.

(c) The authority to authorize the selectboard to appoint the constable as provided in this section shall extend to all towns except those that have a charter that specifically provides for the election or appointment of the office of constable.

Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2651b is amended to read:

§ 2651b. ELIMINATION OF OFFICE OF AUDITOR; APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

(a)(1) A town may vote by ballot at an annual meeting to eliminate the office of town auditor.

(2)(A) If a town votes to eliminate the office of town auditor, the selectboard shall contract with a public accountant, licensed in this State, to perform an annual financial audit of all funds of the town except the funds audited pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 323.

(B) Unless otherwise provided by law, the selectboard shall provide for all other ~~auditor~~ auditor's duties to be performed.

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

(b) The term of office of any auditor in office on the date a town votes to eliminate that office shall expire on the 45th day after such vote or on the date upon which the selectboard enters into a contract with a public accountant under this section, whichever occurs first.

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

that specifically provides for the election or appointment of the office of town auditor.

Sec. 3. 17 V.S.A. § 2651c is amended to read:

§ 2651c. LACK OF ELECTED LISTER; APPOINTMENT OF LISTER;
ELIMINATION OF OFFICE

(a)(1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary and except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, in the event the board of listers of a ~~municipality town~~ falls below a majority and the selectboard is unable to find a person or persons to appoint as a lister or listers under the provisions of 24 V.S.A. § 963, the selectboard may appoint an assessor to perform the duties of a lister as set forth in ~~Title 32 V.S.A. chapter 121, subchapter 2~~ until the next annual meeting.

(2) The appointed person need not be a resident of the ~~municipality town~~ and shall have the same powers and be subject to the same duties and penalties as a duly elected lister for the ~~municipality town~~.

(b)(1) A town may vote by ballot at an annual meeting to eliminate the office of lister.

(2)(A) If a town votes to eliminate the office of lister, the selectboard shall contract with or employ a professionally qualified assessor, who need not be a resident of the town.

(B) The assessor shall have the same powers, discharge the same duties, proceed in the discharge thereof in the same manner, and be subject to the same liabilities as are prescribed for listers or the board of listers under the provisions of Title 32.

(2)(3) A vote to eliminate the office of lister shall remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote of the ~~legal~~ registered voters present and voting at an annual meeting ~~warned~~ for that purpose.

(3)(c) The term of office of any lister in office on the date a town votes to eliminate that office shall expire on the 45th day after the vote or on the date upon which the selectboard appoints an assessor under this subsection, whichever occurs first.

(4)(d) The authority to vote to eliminate the office of lister as provided in this ~~subsection~~ section shall extend to all towns except those towns that have a charter that specifically provides for the election or appointment of the office of lister.

Sec. 4. 17 V.S.A. § 2651d is amended to read:

§ 2651d. COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES; APPOINTMENT;
REMOVAL

(a)(1) A municipality may vote at an annual or special municipal meeting to authorize the legislative body to appoint a collector of delinquent taxes, who may be the municipal treasurer.

(2) A collector of delinquent taxes so appointed may be removed by the legislative body for just cause after notice and hearing.

(b) When a municipality votes to authorize the legislative body to appoint a collector of delinquent taxes, the legislative body's authority to make such appointment shall remain in effect until the municipality rescinds that authority by the majority vote of the ~~legal~~ registered voters present and voting at an annual or special meeting, duly warned for that purpose.

Sec. 5. 17 V.S.A. § 2651e is amended to read:

§ 2651e. MUNICIPAL CLERK; APPOINTMENT; REMOVAL

(a)(1) A municipality may vote at an annual meeting to authorize the legislative body to appoint the municipal clerk.

(2) A municipal clerk so appointed may be removed by the legislative body for just cause after notice and hearing.

(b) A vote to authorize the legislative body to appoint the municipal clerk shall remain in effect until rescinded by the majority vote of the ~~legal~~ registered voters present and voting at an annual or special meeting, duly warned for that purpose.

(c) The term of office of a municipal clerk in office on the date a municipality votes to allow the legislative body to appoint a municipal clerk shall expire 45 calendar days after the vote or on the date upon which the legislative body appoints a municipal clerk under this section, whichever occurs first, unless a petition for reconsideration or rescission is filed in accordance with section 2661 of this title.

(d) The authority to authorize the legislative body to appoint the municipal clerk as provided in this section shall extend to all municipalities except those that have a charter that specifically provides for the election or appointment of the office of municipal clerk.

Sec. 6. 17 V.S.A. § 2651f is amended to read:

§ 2651f. MUNICIPAL TREASURER; APPOINTMENT; REMOVAL

(a)(1) A municipality may vote at an annual meeting to authorize the legislative body to appoint the municipal treasurer.

(2) A treasurer so appointed may be removed by the legislative body for just cause after notice and hearing.

(b) A vote to authorize the legislative body to appoint the treasurer shall remain in effect until rescinded by the majority vote of the ~~legal~~ registered voters present and voting at an annual or special meeting, duly warned for that purpose.

(c) The term of office of a treasurer in office on the date a municipality votes to allow the legislative body to appoint a treasurer shall expire 45 calendar days after the vote or on the date upon which the legislative body appoints a treasurer under this section, whichever occurs first, unless a petition for reconsideration or rescission is filed in accordance with section 2661 of this title.

(d) The authority to authorize the legislative body to appoint the treasurer as provided in this section shall extend to all municipalities except those that have a charter that specifically provides for the election or appointment of the office of municipal treasurer.

* * * Local Incompatible Offices * * *

Sec. 7. 17 V.S.A. § 2647 is amended to read:

§ 2647. INCOMPATIBLE OFFICES

(a)(1) An auditor shall not be town clerk, town treasurer, selectboard member, first constable, collector of current or delinquent taxes, trustee of public funds, town manager, road commissioner, water commissioner, sewage system commissioner, sewage disposal commissioner, cemetery commissioner, or town district school director; nor shall a spouse of or any person assisting any of these officers in the discharge of official duties be eligible to hold office as auditor.

(2) A selectboard member or school director shall not be first constable, collector of taxes, town treasurer, assistant town treasurer, auditor, or town agent. A selectboard member shall not be lister or assessor.

(3) A cemetery commissioner or library trustee shall not be town treasurer, assistant town treasurer, or auditor.

(4) A town manager shall not hold any elective office in ~~the~~ that town or town school district.

(5) Election officers at local elections shall be disqualified as provided in section 2456 of this title.

* * *

* * * Smoking on Municipal Grounds * * *

Sec. 8. 18 V.S.A. § 1742 is amended to read:

§ 1742. RESTRICTIONS ON SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

(a) The possession of lighted tobacco products or use of tobacco substitutes in any form is prohibited in:

(1) the common areas of all enclosed indoor places of public access and publicly owned buildings and offices;

(2) all enclosed indoor places in lodging establishments used for transient traveling or public vacationing, such as resorts, hotels, and motels, including sleeping quarters and adjoining rooms rented to guests;

(3) designated smoke-free areas of property or grounds owned by or leased to the State or a municipality; and

(4) any other area within 25 feet of State-owned buildings and offices, except that to the extent that any portion of the 25-foot zone is not on State property, smoking is prohibited only in that portion of the zone that is on State property unless the owner of the adjoining property chooses to designate his or her property smoke-free.

* * *

* * * Animal Pounds * * *

Sec. 9. 20 V.S.A. chapter 191, subchapter 2 is amended to read:

Subchapter 2. Pounds and Impounding

Article 1. General Provisions

§ 3381. MAINTENANCE OF POUNDS

(a)(1) Each organized town shall maintain as many good and sufficient pounds as it may need for the impounding of ~~beasts~~ animals liable to be impounded.

(2) The pound may be kept in an adjacent town if the adjacent town consents and the poundkeeper may be a resident of an adjacent town.

(b) Each town may regulate the operation of its pounds except as to matters regulated by ~~statute~~ law.

§ 3382. ~~PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO MAINTAIN POUND~~

~~If a town, for the term of six months at one time, is without such pound, it shall be fined \$30.00. [Repealed.]~~

* * *

Sec. 10. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; CONFORMING REVISIONS;
20 V.S.A. CHAPTER 191, SUBCHAPTER 2; REPLACE “BEAST”
WITH “ANIMAL”

When preparing the Vermont Statutes Annotated for publication, the Office of Legislative Council shall replace “beast” with “animal” and “beasts” with “animals” throughout 20 V.S.A. chapter 191, subchapter 2 (pounds and impounding), provided the revisions have no other effect on the meaning of the affected statutes.

* * * Assistant Town Clerks * * *

Sec. 11. 24 V.S.A. § 1171 is amended to read:

§ 1171. DUTIES OF ASSISTANT CLERK

(a) ~~Such~~ The assistant clerk shall be sworn and is authorized to perform the recording and filing duties of the town clerk, to issue licenses and certified copies of records, and, in the absence, death, or disability of the town clerk, is further authorized to perform all other duties of ~~such~~ the clerk.

(b) ~~If the~~ there is a vacancy in the office of town clerk dies, the authority of the assistant town clerk to perform the duties of the town clerk shall continue until a successor is appointed by the selectboard under section 963 of this title.

* * * Municipal Managers * * *

Sec. 12. 24 V.S.A. § 1236 is amended to read:

§ 1236. POWERS AND DUTIES IN PARTICULAR

The manager shall have authority and it shall be his or her duty:

* * *

(4) To have charge and supervision of all public town buildings, and repairs thereon, ~~and repairs of buildings of the town school district upon requisition of the school directors;~~ and all building ~~done~~ undertaken by the town ~~or town school district~~, unless otherwise ~~specially voted~~ provided for by the selectboard, shall be done under his or her charge and supervision.

* * *

(8) To supervise and expend all special appropriations of the town, as if the same were a separate department of the town, unless otherwise ~~voted~~ provided for by the ~~town~~ selectboard.

* * *

* * * Municipal Finances * * *

Sec. 13. 24 V.S.A. chapter 51 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 51. FINANCES; ACCOUNTS AND AUDITS

Subchapter 1. Taxes

* * *

§ 1533. TOWN BOARD FOR THE ABATEMENT OF TAXES

(a) The board of civil authority, with the listers and the town treasurer, shall constitute a board for the abatement of town, ~~town school district,~~ and ~~current use property taxes~~ and water and sewer charges.

(b) The act of a majority of a quorum at a meeting shall be treated as the act of the board. This quorum requirement need not be met if the town treasurer, a majority of the listers, and a majority of the selectboard are present at the meeting.

* * *

§ 1535. ABATEMENT

(a) The board may abate in whole or part taxes, water charges, sewer charges, interest, or collection fees, or any combination of those, other than those arising out of a corrected classification of homestead or nonresidential property, accruing to the town in the following cases:

- (1) taxes or charges of persons who have died insolvent;
- (2) taxes or charges of persons who have ~~removed~~ moved from the State;
- (3) taxes or charges of persons who are unable to pay their taxes or charges, interest, and collection fees;
- (4) taxes in which there is manifest error or a mistake of the listers;
- (5) taxes or charges upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year;
- (6) the exemption amount available under 32 V.S.A. § 3802(11) to persons otherwise eligible for exemption who file a claim on or after May 1 but before October 1 due to the claimant's sickness or disability or other good cause as determined by the board of abatement; but that exemption amount shall be reduced by 20 percent of the total exemption for each month or portion of a month the claim is late filed;
- (7), (8) [Repealed.]

(9) taxes or charges upon a mobile home moved from the town during the tax year as a result of a change in use of the mobile home park land or parts thereof, or closure of the mobile home park in which the mobile home was sited, pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6237.

(b) The board's abatement of an amount of tax or charge shall automatically abate any uncollected interest and fees relating to that amount.

(c) The board shall, in any case in which it abates taxes or charges, interest, or collection fees accruing to the town, or denies an application for abatement, state in detail in writing the reasons for its decision.

(d)(1) The board may order that any abatement as to an amount or amounts already paid be in the form of a refund or in the form of a credit against the tax or charge for the next ensuing tax year, or charge billing cycle and for succeeding tax years or billing cycles if required to use up the amount of the credit.

(2) Whenever a municipality votes to collect interest on overdue taxes pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5136, interest in a like amount shall be paid by the municipality to any person for whom an abatement has been ordered.

(3) Interest on taxes or charges paid and subsequently abated shall accrue from the date payment was due or made, whichever is later. However, abatements issued pursuant to subdivision (a)(5) of this section need not include the payment of interest.

(4) When a refund has been ordered, the board shall draw an order on the town treasurer for ~~such~~ payment of the refund.

* * *

Subchapter 3. Orders Drawn by ~~Selectboard~~ Municipal Bodies

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§ 1622. TOWN ORDERS; RECORD

(a)(1) The chair of the selectboard shall keep or cause to be kept a single record of all orders drawn by the board showing the number, date, to whom payable, for what purpose, and the amount of each ~~such~~ order.

(2) All other officers authorized by law to draw orders upon the town treasurer shall keep or cause to be kept a like record.

(b) Such records shall be submitted to the town auditors annually on or before February 1.

(c) If the records of orders named in this section are made by an assistant clerk, the assistant clerk shall not be the town treasurer, or the ~~wife or husband~~

spouse of such the town treasurer, or any person acting in the capacity of clerk for the town treasurer.

§ 1623. SIGNING ORDERS

(a) The selectboard may do either of the following:

(1) Authorize one or more members of the board to examine and allow claims against the town for town expenses and draw orders for such claims to the party entitled to payment.

(A) Orders shall state definitely the purpose for which they are each is drawn and shall serve as full authority to the treasurer to make the payments.

(B) The selectboard shall be provided with a record of orders drawn under this subdivision (1) whenever orders are signed by less than a majority of the board; or.

(2) Submit to the town treasurer a certified copy of those portions of the selectboard minutes, properly signed by the clerk and chair or by a majority of the board, showing to whom and for what purpose each payment is to be made by the treasurer. The certified copy of the minutes shall serve as full authority to the treasurer to make the approved payments.

(b) This section shall apply to all municipal public bodies authorized by law to draw orders on the municipal treasurer.

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Subchapter. 5. Auditors and Audits

* * *

§ 1684. TRUST ASSETS; INDEBTEDNESS

The auditors shall make a detailed statement showing:

(1) ~~The~~ the condition of all trust funds in which the town is interested ~~with~~ and a list of the assets of such funds, including the account of receipts and disbursements for the preceding year;

(2) ~~What~~ what bonds of the town ~~or town school district~~ are outstanding ~~with~~ and the rate of interest and the amount thereof; and

(3) ~~What interest bearing~~ what interest-bearing notes or orders of the town ~~or town school district~~ are outstanding ~~with~~ and the serial number, date, amount, and rate of interest of each, and the total amount thereof.

* * * Penalties for Municipal Violations * * *

Sec. 14. 24 V.S.A. § 1974 is amended to read:

§ 1974. ENFORCEMENT OF CRIMINAL ORDINANCES

(a)(1) The violation of a criminal ordinance or rule adopted by a municipality under this chapter shall be a misdemeanor.

(2) The criminal ordinance or rule may provide for a fine or imprisonment, but no fine ~~may~~ shall exceed ~~\$500.00~~ \$800.00, nor may any term of imprisonment exceed one year.

(3) Each day the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

* * *

Sec. 15. 24 V.S.A. § 2201 is amended to read:

§ 2201. THROWING, DEPOSITING, BURNING, AND DUMPING
REFUSE; PENALTY; SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT

(a)(1) Prohibition. Every person shall be responsible for proper disposal of his or her own solid waste. A person shall not throw, dump, deposit, or ~~cause,~~ or permit to be thrown, dumped, or deposited any solid waste as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6602, refuse of whatever nature, or any noxious thing in or on lands or waters of the State outside a solid waste management facility certified by the Agency of Natural Resources.

* * *

(b) Prosecution of violations. A person who violates a provision of this section commits a civil violation and shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than ~~\$500.00~~ \$800.00.

(1) This violation shall be enforceable in the Judicial Bureau pursuant to the provisions of 4 V.S.A. chapter 29 in an action that may be brought by a municipal attorney, a solid waste management district attorney, an environmental enforcement officer employed by the Agency of Natural Resources, a grand juror, ~~or~~ a designee of the legislative body of the municipality, or ~~by~~ any duly authorized law enforcement officer.

(2) If the throwing, placing, or depositing was done from a snowmobile, vessel, or motor vehicle, except a motor bus, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the throwing, placing, or depositing was done by the operator of ~~such~~ the snowmobile, vessel, or motor vehicle.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as affecting the operation of an automobile graveyard or salvage yard as defined in section 2241 of this title, nor shall anything in this section be construed as prohibiting the

installation and use of appropriate receptacles for solid waste provided by the State or towns.

* * *

Sec. 16. 24 V.S.A. § 2297a is amended to read:

§ 2297a. ENFORCEMENT OF SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE BY TOWN, CITY, OR INCORPORATED VILLAGE

(a) Solid waste order. A legislative body may issue and enforce a solid waste order in accordance with this section. A solid waste order may include a directive that the respondent take actions necessary to achieve compliance with the ordinance, to abate hazards created as a result of noncompliance, or to restore the environment to the condition existing before the violation and may include a civil penalty of not more than ~~\$500.00~~ \$800.00 for each violation and in the case of a continuing violation, not more than \$100.00 for each succeeding day. In determining the amount of civil penalty to be ordered, the legislative body shall consider the following:

- (1) the degree of actual or potential impact on public health, safety, welfare, and the environment resulting from the violation;
- (2) whether the respondent has cured the violation;
- (3) the presence of mitigating circumstances;
- (4) whether the respondent knew or had reason to know the violation existed;
- (5) the respondent's record of compliance;
- (6) the economic benefit gained from the violation;
- (7) the deterrent effect of the penalty;
- (8) the costs of enforcement;
- (9) the length of time the violation has existed.

* * *

(e) Contents of proposed order. A proposed order shall include:

* * *

(5) if applicable, a civil penalty of not more than ~~\$500.00~~ \$800.00 for each violation and in the case of a continuing violation, not more than \$100.00 for each succeeding day.

* * * Municipal Planning and Development Bylaws * * *

Sec. 17. 24 V.S.A. § 4412 is amended to read:

§ 4412. REQUIRED PROVISIONS AND PROHIBITED EFFECTS

Notwithstanding any existing bylaw, the following land development provisions shall apply in every municipality:

(1) Equal treatment of housing and required provisions for affordable housing.

* * *

(G) A residential care home or group home to be operated under state State licensing or registration, serving not more than eight persons who have a disability as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 4501, shall be considered by right to constitute a permitted single-family residential use of property, ~~except that no such home shall be so considered if it is located within 1,000 feet of another existing or permitted such home.~~ This subdivision (G) does not require a municipality to allow a greater number of residential care homes or group homes on a lot than the number of single-family dwellings allowed on the lot.

* * *

* * * Road Commissioner Compensation * * *

Sec. 18. 32 V.S.A. § 1225 is amended to read:

§ 1225. TOWN ROAD COMMISSIONER

The compensation of a town road commissioner shall be fixed by the selectboard, ~~shall not be less than \$2.00 per day for time actually spent, and shall be paid out of the Transportation Fund.~~

* * * Property Appraisal Appeals * * *

Sec. 19. 32 V.S.A. § 4404 is amended to read:

§ 4404. APPEALS FROM LISTERS AS TO GRAND LIST

(a) Within 14 days after the date of notice thereof, a person aggrieved by the final decision of the listers under the provisions of section 4221 of this title, may appeal in writing therefrom to the board of civil authority, by lodging his or her appeal with the town clerk, who shall record the same in the book containing the abstract of individual lists. The grounds upon which ~~such~~ the appeal is based shall therein be briefly set forth.

(b)(1) The town clerk forthwith shall call a meeting of the board to hear and determine such appeals, which shall be held at ~~such~~ a time, not later than 14 days after the last date allowed for notice of appeal, and at ~~such~~ a place within the town as that he or she shall designate.

(2) Notice of ~~such~~ the time and place shall be given by posting a warning therefor in three or more public places in ~~such~~ the town, and by mailing a copy of ~~such~~ the warning, postage prepaid, to each member of the board, the agent of the town to prosecute and defend suits, the chair of the board of listers, and ~~to~~ all persons so appealing.

(c)(1) The ~~Board~~ board shall meet at the time and place so designated, and on that day and from day to day thereafter shall hear and determine ~~such~~ the appeals until all questions and objections are heard and decided.

(2)(A) Each property, the appraisal of which is being appealed, shall be inspected by a committee of not less than three members of the board ~~who~~. At least one lister shall be allowed to attend the inspection. The committee shall report to the board within 30 days from the hearing on the appeal and before the final decision pertaining to the property is given.

(B) If, after notice, the appellant refuses to allow an inspection of the property or attendance of at least one lister, or both, as required under this subsection, including the interior and exterior of any structure on the property, the appeal shall be deemed withdrawn.

(3) The board shall, within 15 days from the time of the report, certify in writing its notice of decision, with reasons, in the premises, and shall file ~~such~~ the notice with the town clerk, who shall thereupon record the same in the book wherein the appeal was recorded and forthwith notify the appellant in writing of the action of ~~such~~ the board, by certified mail.

(4)(A) If the board does not substantially comply with the requirements of this subsection and if the appeal is not withdrawn by filing written notice of withdrawal with the board or deemed withdrawn as provided in this subsection, the grand list of the appellant for the year for which appeal is being made shall remain at the amount set before the appealed change was made by the listers; except, if there has been a complete reappraisal, the grand list of the appellant for the year for which appeal is being made shall be set at a value ~~which~~ that will produce a tax liability equal to the tax liability for the preceding year.

(B) The town clerk shall immediately record the same in the book wherein the appeal was recorded and forthwith notify the appellant in writing of ~~such~~ the action, by certified mail. Thereupon the appraisal so determined pursuant to this subsection shall become a part of the grand list of such person.

(d) Listers and agents to prosecute and defend suits wherein a town is interested shall not be eligible to serve as members of the board while convened to hear and determine ~~such~~ those appeals nor shall an appellant, or his or her servant, agent, or attorney be eligible to serve as a member of the

~~Board~~ board while convened to hear and determine any appeals. However, listers and agents to prosecute and defend suits wherein a town is interested shall be given the opportunity to defend the appraisals in question.

* * * State Holidays * * *

Sec. 20. 1 V.S.A. § 371 is amended to read:

§ 371. LEGAL HOLIDAYS

(a) The following shall be legal holidays:

New Year's Day, January 1;

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, the third Monday in January;

~~Lincoln's Birthday, February 12;~~

~~Washington's Birthday~~ Presidents' Day, the third Monday in February;

Town Meeting Day, the first Tuesday in March;

Memorial Day, the last Monday in May;

Independence Day, July 4;

Bennington Battle Day, August 16;

Labor Day, the first Monday in September;

Columbus Day, the second Monday in October;

Veterans' Day, November 11;

Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November;

Christmas Day, December 25.

* * *

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 21. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

And that the bill ought to pass in concurrence with such proposal of amendment.

Thereupon, the bill was read the second time by title only pursuant to Rule 43, the proposal of amendment was agreed to on a division of the Senate, Yeas 22, Nays 6.

Thereupon, third reading of the bill was ordered.

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Ashe, the Senate adjourned until eleven o'clock and thirty minutes in the morning.