

1 H.958

2 Introduced by Committee on Government Operations

3 Date:

4 Subject: Communications union districts; formation; appointments;
5 organization

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the
7 legislative body of a municipality, rather than the eligible voters of a
8 municipality at an annual or special meeting, to vote to form a
9 communications union district during a declared state of emergency due to
10 COVID-19. It also amends the requirements for the initial appointment of
11 member representatives and alternates and the initial organizational meeting.

12 An act relating to communications union districts

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

14 Sec. 1. COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT FORMATION;
15 TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION FOR MUNICIPAL
16 LEGISLATIVE BODIES

17 For purposes of formation of a communications union district and
18 notwithstanding the provisions of 30 V.S.A. § 3051(b) requiring a vote by the
19 eligible voters of a municipality at an annual or special meeting, during a

1 declared state of emergency under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 due to COVID-19, the
2 legislative body of a municipality may vote to enter into a communications
3 union district under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. chapter 82.

4 Sec. 2. 30 V.S.A. § 3059 is amended to read:

5 § 3059. APPOINTMENT

6 Annually on or before the last Monday in April ~~commencing in the year~~
7 ~~following the effective date of the district's creation~~, the legislative body of
8 each member shall appoint a representative and one or more alternates to the
9 governing board for one-year terms. Appointments of representatives and
10 alternates shall be in writing, signed by the chair of the legislative body of the
11 appointing member, and presented to the clerk of the district. The legislative
12 body of a member, by majority vote, may replace its appointed representative
13 or alternate at any time and shall promptly notify the district clerk of such
14 replacement. Initial appointments shall be made within 60 days of the vote to
15 form a district under subsection 3051(b) of this title and initial terms may be
16 for less than one year.

17 Sec. 3. 30 V.S.A. § 3060 is amended to read:

18 § 3060. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

19 Annually, on the second Tuesday in May following the appointments
20 contemplated in section 3059 of this chapter, the board shall hold its
21 organizational meeting. At such meeting, the board shall elect from among its

1 appointed representatives a chair and a vice chair, each of whom shall hold
2 office for one year and until his or her successor is duly elected. The board's
3 initial organizational meeting shall be held within 90 days of the vote to form a
4 district under subsection 3051(b) of this title.

5 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on passage.