

1 S.344

2 Introduced by Committee on Government Operations

3 Date: April 27, 2020

4 Subject: Municipal and county government; municipal tax rate and penalties;  
5 temporary provisions in response to COVID-19

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the  
7 legislative body of a municipal corporation to:

8 (1) extend or establish a new time and method of payment of property  
9 taxes;

10 (2) reduce or waive penalties, interest, and fees for late payment of  
11 property taxes; and

12 (3) adjust the municipal property tax rates for the calendar year 2020.

13 An act relating to temporary municipal tax rate provisions in response to  
14 COVID-19

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

16 Sec. 1. MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX; TEMPORARY PROVISIONS  
17 AUTHORIZING DEADLINE EXTENSION, WAIVER OF  
18 PENALTIES AND FEES, AND ADJUSTMENT OF MUNICIPAL  
19 TAX RATE

1        (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, during a declared  
2        state of emergency under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 due to COVID-19, the legislative  
3        body of a municipality is authorized to:

4                (1) extend or establish a new time and method of payment for the  
5        municipal property tax and statewide education property tax collected by the  
6        municipality from taxpayers;

7                (2) establish a grace period for, decrease, or waive any penalty, interest,  
8        or fee imposed on taxpayers for the late payment of the municipal property tax  
9        or statewide education property tax collected by the municipality; and

10               (3) reduce the municipal property tax rate.

11        (b) The acts permitted by subsection (a) of this section may be adopted by  
12        majority vote of the legislative body of a municipality and shall expire on  
13        January 1, 2021.

14        (c) This section shall apply only to property taxes collected by a  
15        municipality from the taxpayers. This section shall not apply to any deadlines,  
16        penalties, or interest imposed on a municipality with respect to payment of the  
17        statewide education property tax due to the State or a school district.

18        Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

19        This act shall take effect on passage.