

S.345

An act relating to temporary municipal provisions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak

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

Sec. 1. OPEN MEETING LAW; TEMPORARY AUTHORITY;

ELECTRONIC POSTING OF MEETING NOTICES AND
AGENDAS

Notwithstanding subdivisions (c)(2) and (d)(1)(B) of 1 V.S.A. § 312, during a declared state of emergency under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 due to COVID-19, a municipal public body may post any meeting agenda or notice of a special meeting in two designated electronic locations in lieu of the two designated public places in the municipality, or in a combination of a designated electronic location and a designated public place. A municipal public body shall post the notice or agenda in or near the municipal clerk's office and shall provide a copy of each notice or agenda to the newspapers of general circulation for the municipality.

Sec. 2. MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX; HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES;

GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

(a) Notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 312 and any other provision of law to the contrary, during a declared state of emergency under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 due to COVID-19, the legislative body of a municipality is authorized to:

(1) borrow monies appropriated from property taxes for the highway expenditures of the municipality as part of the budget approved by the legal voters of the municipality to expend on general government expenditures; and

(2) borrow monies appropriated from property taxes for the general government expenditures of the municipality as part of the budget approved by the legal voters of the municipality to expend on highway expenditures.

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

(c) This section shall apply only to property taxes collected by a municipality from the taxpayers. This section shall not apply to any State aid for town highways distributed pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 306.

(d) This section shall not alleviate the municipality of any Title 19 match requirements.

(e) A municipality that borrows and expends monies under this section shall, not later than December 31, 2021, transfer to any such fund from which such borrowing has been made an amount equal to such borrowed amount together with interest on the borrowed amount at such rate as the legislative body of the municipality shall determine.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.