

H. 544 – City of Burlington

- Sec. 1: Declares General Assembly’s approval of the charter amendments and states date that City voters approved the amendments.
- Sec. 2: 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 3
 - § 48 is amended to strike references to: State laws governing the inspection of buildings, plumbing, housing, and wiring; and the “Inspection Services Division” of the City.
 - § 81 is amended to clarify that the inventory tax shall be applied to the portion of personal property value that exceeds \$45,000.00; to allow the City Council to increase the amount of the inventory tax exemption; and to repeal the tax on nonresidential personal property effective July 1, 2026 or sooner by resolution of the City Council.
 - § 116 is amended to strike a reference to the Planning Director and the appointment of the Planning Director by the Planning Commission.
 - § 122 is amended to add “Director of Permitting and Inspections, Zoning Administrative Officer, and Director of Planning” to the officers that shall be appointed by the Mayor.
 - § 130 is amended to strike a reference to a superintendent or CEO of “Planning” and to add a “Director of Planning” and “Director of Permitting and Inspections.”
 - Adds a new Article 92A (Department of Permitting and Inspections) to subchapter 8.
 - Adds § 370 to create the Department of Permitting and Inspections that combines certain functions of previously existing departments and offices.
 - Adds § 371 to establish the powers and duties of the Department of Permitting and Inspections. Subsection (b) provides that the Department shall, subject to City Council ordinances:
 - review development projects to ensure compliance with City codes, bylaws, historic preservation, and subdivision standards;
 - issue permits for building and zoning;
 - conduct inspections to ensure compliance with building standards and zoning permits;
 - conduct inspections of rental housing units to ensure compliance with housing codes;

- to notice and enforce violations of building, zoning, and minimum housing laws, rules, codes, and ordinances; and
 - carry out the orders of the Board of Health.
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- Adds § 372 to establish a Director of the Department.

 - Adds § 373 to vest the Zoning Administrative Officer with the powers and duties of an administrative officer under the Vermont Planning and Development act. The section also provides that the Zoning Administrative Officer may be the Director of Permitting and Inspections. Subsection (b) allows the Zoning Administrative Officer to delegate authority to assistant administrative officers.