

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 345 entitled “An act relating to temporary municipal meeting
4 provisions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak” respectfully reports that it
5 has considered the same and recommends that the House propose to the Senate
6 that the bill be amended by striking out Sec. 2 in its entirety and inserting in
7 lieu thereof:

8 Sec. 2. MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX; HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES;

9 GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on passage.

13 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating
14 to temporary municipal provisions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak”

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20 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE