

SPECIAL SESSION

S.1

An act relating to temporary municipal rules in response to COVID-19

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

Sec. 1. MUNICIPAL REGULATORY AUTHORITY; TEMPORARY
AUTHORITY TO ADOPT RULES REQUIRING FACE
COVERINGS

(a) As used in this section, “municipality” means a city, town, or incorporated village.

(b) For the purpose of COVID-19 prevention and mitigation, the legislative body of a municipality shall have the authority to adopt a temporary rule requiring individuals to wear face coverings while indoors at locations that are open to the public. A rule adopted pursuant to this section shall not apply to school buildings or school property, which shall remain under the authority of the school board.

(c)(1) The legislative body of a municipality shall adopt a rule authorized by this section at a regular or special meeting of the legislative body warned for that purpose.

(2) Notwithstanding 24 V.S.A. §§ 1972 and 1973 or any municipal charter provision to the contrary, a rule adopted pursuant to this section shall

take effect upon adoption and shall not be subject to a petition for permissive referendum.

(d) A rule adopted pursuant to this section shall remain in effect for not more than 45 days following its initial adoption. The legislative body of a municipality that adopted a rule pursuant to this section shall meet during the period in which the initial rule is in effect and vote either to rescind the rule or to extend the rule for an additional 30 days. Thereafter, the legislative body shall meet at a minimum once every 30 days to reconsider the rule, at which meeting the legislative body shall vote either to rescind the rule or to extend the rule for an additional 30-day period.

(e) The authority granted by this section shall expire on April 30, 2022, and any municipal face covering rule in effect on that date shall be repealed.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.