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**Act No. 157 (S.181). Municipal government; regulatory provisions; police power of municipalities; miscellaneous regulatory powers**

**An act relating to authorizing miscellaneous regulatory authority for municipal governments**

This act:

- Amends the enumerated list of municipal regulatory powers in 24 V.S.A. § 2291 to allow municipalities to adopt ordinances governing the installation of sidewalks, the implementation of traffic-calming devices, and the location and installation of storm drains and to establish health and safety standards for premises within the municipality.
- Authorizes municipalities to vote to:
  - suspend a charter provision for not more than three years and to use general law authority in lieu of the suspended charter provision;
  - allow nonresidents to be elected or appointed as certain town officers;
  - eliminate the office of constable and assign any existing duties to another town officer;
  - reduce or expand the number of members on an appropriate municipal panel (development review board or zoning board of adjustment) or planning commission; and
  - use cemetery funds for the improvement of cemetery grounds.
- Establishes procedures for:
  - Electronic meetings of a public body that is affected by an “all-hazard” during a declared state of emergency.
  - Boards of civil authority and Department of Taxes hearing officers to conduct electronic property inspections pursuant to a grand list appeal during a declared state of emergency.
  - Temporary moratoria on water and sewer disconnections during a state of emergency that causes financial hardship and the inability of ratepayers to pay for services.
  - Municipal corporations to extend deadlines applicable to municipal corporations, provided that the deadlines do not relate to a State license, permit, or plan. This procedure also allows

municipal corporations to extend deadlines applicable to permits and plans issued by the municipality.

- Amends the Public Records Act to clarify that a public agency may provide records in a nonstandard format if requested by the requestor.
- Repeals 19 V.S.A. § 312 related to the segregation of town highway funds.

Effective Date: July 1, 2022