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H.140

Introduced by Representatives McCullough of Williston and Brady of  
Williston

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Municipal and county government; municipal charters; Town of  
Williston; amendments

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to approve  
amendments to the charter of the Town of Williston to:

(1) allow the Town of Williston to adopt any charter provision approved  
for any other municipality, without seeking approval from the General  
Assembly;

(2) authorize the Town Manager to appoint and remove the Town  
Library Director with advice and consent of the Library Board of Trustees; and

(3) authorize a Town-specific procedure for contract impasse resolution.

An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of  
Williston

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

2 Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

3 The General Assembly approves the amendments to the charter of the Town  
4 of Williston as set forth in this act. The voters approved proposals of  
5 amendment on March 3, 2020.

6 Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 156 is amended to read:

7 CHAPTER 156. TOWN OF WILLISTON

8 \* \* \*

9 § 2. APPLICATION OF GENERAL LAW; CHARTER

10 \* \* \*

11 (d) Any charter provision approved for any other municipality may be  
12 adopted by majority vote of the electorate as a charter provision in the Town of  
13 Williston charter without the need to return to the General Assembly for  
14 approval, provided that notice is given to the Secretary of State within 30 days  
15 of the vote to approve the amendment.

16 \* \* \*

17 § 16. THE TOWN MANAGER

18 \* \* \*

19 (h) Responsibilities of the Town Manager and authority:

20 \* \* \*

1 (3) Authority and duties in particular. The Manager shall be charged  
2 with full authority, and be responsible for the following:

3 \* \* \*

4 (J) To appoint, upon merit and fitness alone, and, when the Manager  
5 deems necessary for the good of the service, suspend or remove any  
6 subordinate official, employee, or agent, including the Town Treasurer,  
7 Assistant Town Treasurer, and administrative officer (Zoning Administrator),  
8 under the Manager's supervision as provided for in this charter. The Library  
9 Director shall be appointed or removed by the Manager with the advice and  
10 consent of a majority of the Library Board of Trustees. All ~~such~~ appointments  
11 may be without definite terms, except as provided in section 19 of this charter,  
12 unless for provisional, temporary, or emergency service, in which case, terms  
13 shall not exceed the maximum periods prescribed by the personnel rules and  
14 regulations. The Manager may authorize the head of a department or of an  
15 office responsible to the Manager to appoint and remove subordinates in such  
16 office or department.

17 \* \* \*

18 § 21. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IMPASSE RESOLUTION

19 In the event of a contract impasse between the Town and any employee  
20 collective bargaining unit, the means to reach resolution shall be as follows:

1           (1) The existing collective bargaining agreement shall remain in full  
2           force and effect until a successor agreement is negotiated.

3           (2) Both parties shall participate in a mediation process in a time and  
4           manner agreed upon by both parties.

5           (3) If the mediation process is not successful, both parties shall  
6           participate in a fact-finding process in a time and manner agreed upon by both  
7           parties.

8           (4) Following release of the fact-finder's report, if the impasse remains  
9           beyond 60 days following the date of the release, binding arbitration may be  
10          considered, but only if agreed upon by both parties.

11          Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

12          This act shall take effect on passage.