1   H.352

2   Introduced by Representatives Sibilia of Dover, Nicoll of Ludlow, and

3   Vyhovsky of Essex

4   Referred to Committee on

5   Date:

6   Subject: Elections; local elections; ranked choice voting

7   Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow

8   municipal voters to vote at an annual or special meeting to use ranked choice

9   voting to elect the officers of the municipality in subsequent elections.

10   An act relating to allowing ranked choice voting in municipal elections

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

12   Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2681b is added to read:

13   § 2681b. RANKED CHOICE VOTING SYSTEM

14   (a) Application.

15   (1) A municipality may vote at an annual or special meeting to use

16   ranked choice voting to elect the officers of the municipality.

17   (2) Once a municipality votes to elect its officers by ranked choice

18   voting, the officers shall be elected in that manner until the municipality votes

19   to discontinue use of that system.

1   (b) Form of vote. A vote on whether to use ranked choice voting to elect

2   municipal officers shall be in substantially the following form:

3   "Shall (name of municipality) elect its officers using ranked choice

4   voting?"

5   (c) Use. A municipality shall not use ranked choice voting at the same

6   election at which its voters decide that the system shall be used.

7   (d) Information and training.

8   (1) The Secretary of State shall make available to municipalities

9   information regarding the ranked choice process.

10   (2) Whenever a municipality has voted to adopt the ranked choice

11   system of voting on municipal officers, the legislative body shall make

12   available to voters information regarding the ranked choice process, and the

13   Secretary of State shall provide training to that municipality's election officials

14   in order to assist them in implementing that process.

15   (e) Description.

16   (1) Ranked choice voting requires a winning candidate to receive a

17   majority of votes. Under a ranked choice voting system, voters choose their

18   candidates in order of preference, by marking candidates as their first, second,

19   third, and subsequent choices. If no candidate receives a majority of votes on

20   the first round of counting, the votes are thereafter tabulated in rounds, with the

21   lowest-ranked candidate eliminated in each round and the votes for that

1   candidate transferred to the totals of each ballot's highest-ranked continuing

2   candidate, if applicable, until one candidate receives a majority of votes.

3   (2) Ranked choice voting shall conform to the provisions of this

4   subchapter, except as otherwise described in this subsection.

5   Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

6   This act shall take effect on passage.