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H.271

Introduced by Representatives Emmons of Springfield and Morris of
Springfield

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Municipal government; municipal charters; Town of Springfield;
amendments

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the
charter of the Town of Springfield.

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

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

Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

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

Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 149 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 149. TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

* * *

1 § 5. ORDINANCES

2 * * *

3 (c) Ordinance adoption procedure, other than zoning and subdivision
4 bylaws.

5 * * *

6 (2) There shall be five categories of action as follows:

7 * * *

8 (D) minor amendment—minor adjustment in meaning, procedure, or
9 definition; and

10 (E) emergency ordinance as defined herein in subsection (f) of this
11 section;

12 ~~(F) changes in the Town's zoning and subdivision bylaws.~~

13 * * *

14 § 11. PROCEDURES FOR CHARTER REVISION AND AMENDMENT

15 * * *

16 (b) The procedure for charter amendment shall be as follows:

17 (1) The Selectboard shall appoint a Charter Review Committee of not
18 less than 11 members, which shall include two representatives from the
19 Selectboard and two representatives from the administration, one of which
20 must be the Town Clerk, with the majority from the community at large. All
21 voting members must be registered voters of the Town.

1 * * *

2 § 22. TOWN MEETING; ELECTIONS

3 * * *

4 (b) Meetings and Elections.

5 * * *

6 (5) Presiding officials at Town meeting and elections.

7 * * *

8 (F) In the absence of the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk,
9 should it occur before an election, the Board of Civil Authority shall, upon
10 notice, immediately meet and designate an Acting Clerk for the duration of the
11 election. Should the absence occur on election day, the Board of Civil
12 Authority members present at the election shall designate an Acting Clerk to
13 preside for the duration of the election.

14 * * *

15 § 23. LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

16 * * *

17 (c) Elected officers, duties, responsibilities, and conduct.

18 (1) Selectboard.

19 * * *

20 (E) Meetings. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with
21 Vermont's Open Meeting Law, 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 2.

1 * * *

2 (iv) Quorums; votes.

3 * * *

4 (II) ~~All voting shall be by individual roll call vote~~ The minutes
5 of the meeting will record the vote of each Selectboard member.

6 * * *

7 § 34. ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLICY FUNCTIONS PRESCRIBED BY
8 CHARTER

9 * * *

10 (b) Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Town Attorney.

11 (1) The Selectboard shall appoint and remove, on the basis of
12 qualifications and performance alone, a Town Clerk, ~~Grand Juror~~, Town
13 Treasurer, and Town Attorney.

14 * * *

15 § 42. TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET TIMETABLE AND
16 PREPARATION

17 * * *

18 (d) Drafting of annual budget.

19 (1) Unified administrative request. The Town Manager shall, after
20 consultation with department heads, submit to the Selectboard and the Budget

1 Advisory Committee a single budget request from the administration for all
2 departments.

3 * * *

4 § 44. RESERVE FUNDS

5 (a) The Selectboard may raise and appropriate money for the establishment
6 of ~~capital~~ reserve or equipment reserve funds for the financing of all or part of:

7 * * *

8 § 49. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND TOWN BUDGET

9 (a) Finance Director.

10 * * *

11 (2) The Finance Director shall be a member of the Town administration
12 and be subject to all rules and regulations of the Town administration, and may
13 not be the Town Treasurer or a Selectboard member.

14 * * *

15 (c) Independent audit.

16 (1) The Selectboard shall provide for an annual independent audit of all
17 Town accounts and may require for any special audit it deems necessary.

18 * * *

19 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on passage.