

1 H.888

2 Introduced by Representatives Cole of Hartford and Christie of Hartford

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Municipal government; municipal charters; Town of Hartford

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the  
7 charter of the Town of Hartford to hold Warrant Information Nights. It  
8 proposes to modify appointments to the School and Town Meeting Committee.

9 The bill proposes to increase the terms of the Town Moderator and School  
10 Moderator from one to three years. It proposes to modify quorum and majority  
11 vote requirements for Selectboard actions. The bill proposes to designate the  
12 Town Manager as the Delinquent Tax Collector. It also proposes to enable the  
13 Town Treasurer to appoint an Assistant Town Treasurer.

14 An act relating to approval of amendments to the charter of the Town of  
15 Hartford

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

17 Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

18 The General Assembly approves the amendments to the charter of the Town  
19 of Hartford as set forth in this act. The voters of the Town approved the

1 proposals of amendment on March 5, 2024. The voters of the School District  
2 approved the proposals of amendment on April 15, 2024.

3 Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 123A is amended to read:

4 CHAPTER 123A. TOWN OF HARTFORD

5 \* \* \*

6 § 103. PARTICULAR POWERS OF THE TOWN

7 \* \* \*

8 § 201. TOWN MEETING

9 \* \* \*

10 (b)(1) School and Town Meeting Committee. To augment the statutory  
11 responsibilities for the annual Town and School District meetings that are  
12 specified to the Town and the School District and their respective officers,  
13 there shall be a School and Town Meeting Committee that shall organize,  
14 arrange, and provide for the comfort, presentation, publicity, program,  
15 refreshments, entertainment, and other nonstatutory aspects of the Town  
16 meeting cycle, such as the Warrant Information Night and School District Day  
17 meeting. ~~The Town Clerk shall appoint one member for a two-year term.~~

18 (2) The Selectboard shall appoint one member for a two-year term and  
19 one member for a three-year term. The School Board shall appoint one  
20 member for a two-year term and one member for a three-year term. No School  
21 Board member, Selectboard member, or Town Clerk may serve on the School

1 and Town Meeting Committee. Each appointing body ~~or person~~ shall have the  
2 power to remove any incumbent member of the School and Town Meeting  
3 Committee appointed by that body ~~or person~~ and shall have the power to  
4 appoint a replacement member to serve the unexpired term of any person who  
5 is removed or who resigns.

6 \* \* \*

7 (e) Meetings; dates; times; votes; ballot.

8 (1) Warrant Information Night; "Information Night" Meeting. Prior to  
9 Budget and Candidates Night, the Town and School Meeting Committee may  
10 call a meeting for the purpose of providing presentations and discussion of  
11 items that may be placed on the warrants for Voting Day.

12 (2) Budget and Candidates Night meeting. ~~At 7:00 p.m. on~~ On the  
13 Monday night in February eight days prior to Voting Day, a Town and School  
14 District budget discussion and Candidates Night meeting shall be called for the  
15 purpose of:

16 \* \* \*

17 ~~(2)~~(3) Town and School District Meeting Day. The annual Town and  
18 School District floor meetings shall be called and held on the Saturday  
19 preceding Voting Day held under subdivision ~~(3)~~(4) of this subsection, subject  
20 to change as provided by general law. The floor meetings shall:

21 \* \* \*

\* \* \*

\* \* \*

\* \* \*

(d) Qualifications for serving in elected Town office:

\* \* \*

(e) The elected officers of the Town shall be:

\* \* \*

(2) one Moderator, elected for a ~~one-year~~ three-year term;

\* \* \*

(f) The elected officers of the School District shall be:

(1) one Moderator, elected for a ~~one-year~~ three-year term;

(2) five School Board members, elected in accordance with State statute.

\* \* \*

§ 203. DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS

(a) Selectboard.

\* \* \*

(2) Organization.

\* \* \*

(E) The presence of four or more members shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of holding a meeting. The affirmative vote of ~~a majority of the three~~ members present at a meeting at which a quorum is of at least five members are present shall be necessary to adopt any matter before the Selectboard exercise authority.

\* \* \*

\* \* \*

\* \* \*

This act shall take effect on passage.