

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs to which
3 was referred House Bill No. entitled “An act relating to approval of
4 amendments to the charter of the Town of Hartford” respectfully reports that it
5 has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking
6 out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * Town of Hartford * * *

8 Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

9 The General Assembly approves the amendments to the charter of the Town
10 of Hartford as set forth in this act. The voters of the Town approved the
11 proposals of amendment on March 5, 2024. The voters of the School District
12 approved the proposals of amendment on April 15, 2024.

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

14 CHAPTER 123A. TOWN OF HARTFORD

15 * * *

16 § 103. PARTICULAR POWERS OF THE TOWN

17 * * *

18 § 201. TOWN MEETING

19 * * *

20 (b)(1) School and Town Meeting Committee. To augment the statutory
21 responsibilities for the annual Town and School District meetings that are

1 specified to the Town and the School District and their respective officers,
2 there shall be a School and Town Meeting Committee that shall organize,
3 arrange, and provide for the comfort, presentation, publicity, program,
4 refreshments, entertainment, and other nonstatutory aspects of the Town
5 meeting cycle, such as the Warrant Information Night and School District Day
6 meeting. ~~The Town Clerk shall appoint one member for a two-year term.~~

7 (2) The Selectboard shall appoint one member for a two-year term and
8 one member for a three-year term. The School Board shall appoint one
9 member for a two-year term and one member for a three-year term. No School
10 Board member, Selectboard member, or Town Clerk may serve on the School
11 and Town Meeting Committee. Each appointing body ~~or person~~ shall have the
12 power to remove any incumbent member of the School and Town Meeting
13 Committee appointed by that body ~~or person~~ and shall have the power to
14 appoint a replacement member to serve the unexpired term of any person who
15 is removed or who resigns.

16 * * *

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

18 (1) Warrant Information Night; “Information Night” Meeting. Prior to
19 Budget and Candidates Night, the Town and School Meeting Committee may
20 call a meeting for the purpose of providing presentations and discussion of
21 items that may be placed on the warrants for Voting Day.

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

5 * * *

6 ~~(2)~~(3) Town and School District Meeting Day. The annual Town and
7 School District floor meetings shall be called and held on the Saturday
8 preceding Voting Day held under subdivision ~~(3)~~(4) of this subsection, subject
9 to change as provided by general law. The floor meetings shall:

10 * * *

11 ~~(3)~~(4) Voting Day. Voting Day shall be on Vermont Town Meeting
12 Day, the first Tuesday in March, at which time any business, budgets, and
13 candidate election involving Australian ballots will be transacted beginning at
14 7 a.m. until closing at 7 p.m. The Town budget as warned by the Selectboard
15 and the School District budget as warned by the School Board shall be
16 submitted to the electorate at this Town election. A majority vote shall be a
17 simple majority of votes cast in this election. All public questions and all
18 matters relating to the adoption of the Town and School District budgets shall
19 be considered by Australian ballot under this subdivision.

20 * * *

1 (g) Warnings. Warnings for Town ~~or~~ and School District meetings shall be
 2 posted on the Town ~~or~~ and School District websites, printed in area
 3 newspapers, posted on social media, and posted in at least 12 public places in
 4 the Town under a schedule that is in accordance with State statute. The
 5 warning shall be signed and recorded by the Town Clerk before it is posted.
 6 Budgets and other applicable reports shall be available not later than 10 days
 7 prior to the budget informational meeting as established under subdivision
 8 (e)~~(1)~~(2) of this section.

* * *

10 § 202. ELECTED OFFICERS

* * *

12 (d) Qualifications for serving in elected Town office:

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

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

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

* * *

1 § 203. DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS

2 (a) Selectboard.

3 * * *

4 (2) Organization.

5 * * *

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

11 * * *

12 § 301. APPOINTED OFFICERS

13 * * *

14 (c) Collector of Delinquent Taxes. These duties shall be assumed by the
15 Town Manager or the Town Manager’s designee.

16 (d) Assistant Town Treasurer. The Town Treasurer may appoint an
17 Assistant Town Treasurer who may be delegated some or all of the powers of
18 the Town Treasurer on a temporary basis by the Town Treasurer upon notice to
19 the Town Manager and the School Superintendent. The Assistant Town
20 Treasurer shall be compensated at the same rate as the Town Treasurer when
21 exercising the powers of the Town Treasurer. In the event the office of Town

1 Treasurer becomes vacant, the Assist Town Treasurer shall become the Town
2 Treasurer for the remainder of the Town Treasurer’s term of office.

3 * * *

4 * * * Village of Old Bennington * * *

5 Sec. 3. REPEAL

6 1959 Acts and Resolves No. 300, Secs. 1 (Assessment of taxes) and 2
7 (Collection and use) are repealed.

8 Sec. 4. VILLAGE HIGHWAYS

9 Notwithstanding the provisions of 19 V.S.A. § 303 or any other provisions
10 of law to the contrary, the Select Board of the Town of Bennington shall have
11 general supervision and control of the highways, streets, and lanes of the
12 Village of Old Bennington, including all related expenditures.

13 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on passage.

15
16
17
18 (Committee vote: _____)

19 _____
20 Representative _____
21 FOR THE COMMITTEE