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H.957

Introduced by Representatives Burkhardt of South Burlington, Arsenault of
Williston, and Brady of Williston

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Municipal government; municipal charters; Town of Williston

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the
charter of the Town of Williston to remove listers as elected officers and
instead enable the Town to employ or contract with an assessor.

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

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 Williston as set forth in this act. The voters approved the proposals of
amendment on March 3, 2026.

Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 171 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 171. TOWN OF WILLISTON

* * *

1 § 14. LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

2 (a) Elective offices. Local elective offices to be filled by the voters of the
3 Town of Williston shall be only those articulated by this charter, and shall
4 include:

- 5 (1) Selectboard;
- 6 (2) Town Clerk;
- 7 (3) [Repealed.]
- 8 (4) ~~Lister~~; [Repealed.]
- 9 (5) Moderator;
- 10 (6) [Repealed.]
- 11 (7)–(9) [Repealed.]
- 12 (10) Library trustee.
- 13 (11)–(12) [Repealed.]

14 * * *

15 (c) Elected officers; duties, responsibilities, and conduct.

16 * * *

17 (3) ~~Listers.~~

18 ~~(A) There shall be three elected listers elected on a nonpartisan basis~~
19 ~~for three-year staggered terms.~~

20 ~~(B) Duties and responsibilities of the listers shall be in accordance~~
21 ~~with State statute and herein limited.~~

1 (4) The Board for the Abatement of Taxes.

2 (A) The Board for the Abatement of Taxes shall consist of the Board
3 of Civil Authority and Town Treasurer, ~~plus the listers unless the Town votes~~
4 ~~to eliminate the office of lister.~~ The Board is responsible for making decisions
5 on tax abatement pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1535.

6 (B) The Board for the Abatement of Taxes shall be governed by
7 general law in the exercise of its authority.

8 (C) The quorum for the Board of Abatement of Taxes shall consist of
9 a majority of the Board of Civil Authority, and Town Treasurer, ~~and Town~~
10 ~~Listers unless the Town votes to eliminate the office of lister.~~

11 * * *

12 § 21. ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY

13 (a) The Town shall employ or contract with one or more professionally
14 qualified assessors who meet, prior to conducting any assessment work for the
15 Town, the training requirements established by the Director of Property
16 Valuation and Review under 32 V.S.A. § 4052.

17 (b) The assessors shall have the same powers, discharge the same duties,
18 proceed in the discharge of those duties in the same manner, and be subject to
19 the same liabilities as are prescribed for listers under the provisions of Title 32.

20 Sec. 3. TRANSITIONARY PROVISION

21 The term of office of any lister in office in the Town of Williston shall
22 expire 45 days after the passage of this act or upon the date on which an

1 assessor is employed or contracted with in accordance with 24 App. V.S.A. ch.

2 171, § 21, whichever occurs last.

3 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.