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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- 7 (3) [Repealed.]
- 8 (4) ~~Lister~~; [Repealed.]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- 10 (6) [Repealed.]
- 11 (7)–(9) [Repealed.]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- 13 (11)–(12) [Repealed.]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 ~~(C) The Town may vote by a majority of the legal voters present at~~
2 ~~an annual or special meeting duly warned for that purpose to eliminate the~~
3 ~~office of lister or change the office to an appointed position. If the Town votes~~
4 ~~to eliminate the office of lister, the Town manager shall contract with or~~
5 ~~employ a professionally qualified assessor, who need not be a resident of the~~
6 ~~Town. The assessor shall have the same powers, discharge the same duties,~~
7 ~~proceed in the discharge thereof in the same manner, and be subject to the~~
8 ~~same liabilities as are prescribed for lister or board of listers under the~~
9 ~~provisions of Title 32 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.~~

10 ~~(D) A vote to eliminate the office of lister shall remain in effect until~~
11 ~~rescinded by majority vote of the legal voters present at an annual or special~~
12 ~~meeting warned for that purpose.~~

13 ~~(E) The term of office of any lister in office on the date a town votes~~
14 ~~to eliminate that office shall expire on the 45th day after the vote or on the date~~
15 ~~upon which the Selectboard appoints an assessor. [Repealed.]~~

16 * * *

17 § 15. APPOINTED NONADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

18 * * *

19 (b) Appointed positions.

20 * * *

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

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.