

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

House Resolution

H.R. 14

Offered by Representative Kleppner of Burlington

House resolution relating to amending the House Rules to allow municipal charter and merger bills to be read three times without referral to a committee of jurisdiction

Whereas, the General Assembly ordinarily considers between 20 and 30 charter bills during a given biennium, and

Whereas, the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs has primary jurisdiction over municipal charters and mergers, but also has jurisdiction over many other subjects of great importance to the State, and

Whereas, providing for an efficient and timely process for the House to consider and debate charter proposals would provide the Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs the opportunity to invest time in its other areas of jurisdiction, and

Whereas, allowing municipal charters and mergers to be read three times without referral to committee would establish a level of deference to municipalities over matters of local concern, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That this legislative body amend the Rules and Orders of the House of Representatives to add Rule 45a to read:

45a. (a) Notwithstanding Rule 45(a), a bill that adopts, amends, or repeals a municipal charter; approves a municipal merger; or dissolves a municipal corporation shall not be referred to committee and shall be placed on the Calendar for Notice for five legislative days before being placed in the Orders of the Day, after which it shall proceed in the regular course as other bills but without the need for a committee report. However, a bill that is subject to this rule 45a may be referred to a committee at the discretion of the Speaker or upon the motion of a member. For each bill that is subject to this rule 45a, the Office of Legislative Counsel shall prepare a memorandum that summarizes the proposals within the bill, identifies any manifest errors or necessary technical corrections, and analyzes any constitutional or legal issues presented by the bill contents.