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H.953

Introduced by Representatives Birong of Vergennes and North of Ferrisburgh

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Municipal and county government; municipal charters; Town of
Panton; amendment

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to approve an
amendment to the charter of the Town of Panton to adopt procedures for the
recall of elected Town officers.

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the Town of
Panton

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

Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

The General Assembly approves the amendment of the charter of the Town
of Panton as set forth in this act. The voters of the Town approved the
proposals of amendment on May 15, 2025.

Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 129F is amended to read:

CHAPTER 129F. TOWN OF PANTON

* * *

1 § 5. RECALL OF ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

2 (a) Any elected Town officer may be removed from office subject to the
3 following conditions and procedures:

4 (1) A written petition, signed by not less than 15 percent of the
5 registered voters of the Town, seeking the removal of a Town officer and
6 requesting a vote of the Town at a regular or special Town meeting called for
7 the purpose, shall be filed with the Selectboard and the Town Clerk.

8 (2) If the petition is filed not more than 60 days and not less than 47
9 days before the next regular Town meeting, the Selectboard shall place the
10 question of whether the elected officer shall be removed on the warning for the
11 next regular Town meeting. Otherwise, the Selectboard shall call a special
12 Town meeting, to be held within 45 days after receiving the petition, to vote on
13 whether the elected officer shall be removed. In either case, the recall vote
14 shall be held by Australian ballot.

15 (3) When the petitioned removal is approved by a majority of the votes
16 cast at the regular or special Town meeting, the Town officer named in the
17 petition shall cease to hold office.

18 (4) The officer shall be removed only if at least as many registered
19 voters of the Town vote to approve the petition as voted to elect said officer in
20 the most recent election wherein the officer was elected, or at least one-third of
21 the registered voters of the Town vote, whichever is fewer.

1 (b) A vacancy resulting from the recall of an officer shall be filled in the
2 manner prescribed by law.

3 (c) A recall petition shall not be brought against an individual more than
4 once within any 12-month period.

5 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on passage.