

### **Text of Communication from Governor**

The text of the communication from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he vetoed and returned unsigned **House Bill No. 177** to the House is as follows:

“June 1, 2021

The Honorable BetsyAnn Wrask  
Clerk of the Vermont House of Representatives  
115 State St.  
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Ms. Wrask:

Pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution, I am returning H.177, *An Act Relating to Approval of an Amendment to the Charter of the City of Montpelier* without my signature.

This is an important policy discussion that deserves further consideration and debate. Allowing a highly variable town-by-town approach to municipal voting creates inconsistency in election policy, as well as separate and unequal classes of residents potentially eligible to vote on local issues. I believe it is the role of the Legislature to establish clarity and consistency on this matter. This should include defining how municipalities determine which legal residents may vote on local issues, as well as specifying the local matters they may vote on. Returning these bills provides the opportunity to do this important work.

For these reasons I am returning this legislation without my signature pursuant to Chapter II, Section 11 of the Vermont Constitution. I understand these charter changes are well-intentioned, but I ask the Legislature to revisit the issue of non-citizen voting in a more comprehensive manner and develop a statewide policy or a uniform template and process for those municipalities wishing to grant the right of voting in local elections to *all* legal residents.

Sincerely,

/s/Philip B. Scott  
Governor

PBS/kp”