

If local officials are called up for emergency military service, should they be replaced and, if so, how?

There is a provision in 20 V.S.A. § 185 for local elected officials to designate three "emergency interim successors" to replace them in case they are unavailable. For example, Ted or Sally would name three people and rank them in the order they would take over. Person One takes over unless he or she is not available, in which case Person Two takes over, etc. The replacement person would serve until the elected official becomes available again or, if the office becomes vacant due to resignation, death, insanity or removal from town, until an election can be held in accordance with the statutes. 24 V.S.A. §§ 961-63.

There is also a statute giving legislative bodies the authority to name emergency interim successors for local appointed officials. 20 V.S.A. § 186.

Both of these statutes are mandatory and the appointments shall be updated annually and filed in the office of the county clerk. There are further provisions covering bonds, oaths, removal from office, and training of "emergency interim successors." 20 V.S.A. §§ 188-191.

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