

### **When do Bylaw Adoptions, Amendments, and Repeals Take Effect?**

Either immediately if voted by Australian ballot, or 21 days after adoption, depending on what process is utilized.

For a town that adopts its bylaws, amendments, or repeals by vote of its selectboard it will take effect 21 days after the date of adoption, unless a petition signed by five percent of the voters is received within 20 days of that vote to consider the bylaw, amendment, or repeal by Australian ballot at a duly warned special or annual town meeting. Alternatively, the same selectboard may choose to forgo taking action on a bylaw, amendment, or repeal by putting its adoption before the voters by Australian ballot on a case-by-case basis. 24 V.S.A. § 4442(c)(1).

The voters of a town whose population is less than 2,500 may elect to adopt bylaws, amendments, or repeals by Australian ballot at the annual or special town meeting. That method of voting would then apply until rescinded by the voters. In these towns, bylaws, amendments, or repeals would take effect immediately upon passage. 24 V.S.A. § 4442(c)(2).

Regardless of which method of adoption a town uses, action (approval or rejection) must be taken within a year of the date of the planning commission's final hearing or it will be considered disapproved unless five percent of the voters petition within 60 days of the end of that year to consider the bylaw, amendment, or repeal by Australian ballot. 24 V.S.A. § 4442(g).

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