

VLCT's Top Ten Requests for Technical Corrections to Statutes in 2024

1. **Amend** 24 V.S.A. § 1573 to permit an assistant treasurer to perform the duties of the treasurer in the event of a vacancy. This can be accomplished by amending the second to last sentence of that provision to read, "An assistant treasurer, during the temporary absence, or disability, death or vacancy of the treasurer, shall perform the duties of treasurer until such time as the treasurer is able to resume their duties or the vacancy is filled."
2. **Amend** 24 V.S.A. § 4471(c) to align it with V.R.E.C.P. 5(b)(4)(A) by changing the time a Zoning Administrator has to supply appellants with a list of interested persons in their appeal to Environmental Court from "5 working days" to "7 days."
3. **Amend** the broad language for who can appeal a listers action on property assessments in 32 V.S.A. § 4111(g) ("A person who feels aggrieved ...") to the narrower "Property owner as of April 1st or their designee" to align with current Secretary of State and Department of Taxes interpretation.
4. **Amend** 24 V.S.A. § 961 governing municipal vacancies to clarify that it applies only to vacancies in elected office so that it reads, "When an elected municipal officer resigns the officer's office" The title to Title 24, Chapter 33, Subchapter 6 should also be amended to read, "Vacancies in Elected Town Offices."
5. **Amend** 17 V.S.A. § 2640(b) which permits towns to change the date of their annual meeting to clarify that the vote will remain in effect until rescinded (rather than being revoted each year). (This change is needed throughout Vermont law. A provision that states, "unless otherwise specified, any town vote remains in effect until rescinded by the voters" may prove the best solution.)
6. **Amend** 24 V.S.A. § 1936a which permits towns to prohibit constables from exercising any law enforcement authority to clarify that the vote will remain in effect until rescinded (rather than being revoted each year). (This change is needed throughout Vermont law. A provision that states, "unless otherwise specified, any town vote remains in effect until rescinded by the voters" may prove the best solution.)
7. **Amend** 20 V.S.A. § 3546(c) to read, "Notwithstanding 20 V.S.A. § 3550, a person who, after receiving notice, fails to comply with the terms of the order shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$800.00. On application of a municipality, the superior court shall have jurisdiction to enjoin the violation of the order. The court may also authorize the seizure and disposition of domestic pets or wolf-hybrids when owners refuse to comply with the terms of the order." This suggested change will allow for a more expedient enforcement mechanism than what the law currently provides for enforcing protective orders issued against owners of vicious dogs.
8. **Amend** 17 V.S.A. §§ 2647(a)(4) to read, "A town manager shall not hold any elective office in that town or town school district or any such elective office which a town has switched by its vote to an appointed office.", to clarify that town managers are also prohibited from holding elective offices that are changed to appointed ones (e.g., appointed Town Clerk, Town Treasurer).
9. **Amend** 17 V.S.A. §§ 2647(a)(1) and (a)(2)(A) to apply to both 1st and 2nd constables as there is no distinction between the two offices with respect to their authority under the law and currently only 1st constables are listed in these sections.
10. **Amend** 24 V.S.A. § 4444(a) to read, "Any public notice required for public hearing under this ~~sub~~chapter shall be given not less than 15 days prior to the date of the public hearing by:" This change will clarify that these notice requirements also apply to hearings pertaining to town plans.