

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021, except that Sec. 2 (2022 amendment to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(5)(B)(ii) (public records; exemptions; records relating to the initial arrest and charge of a person)) shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

NOTICE CALENDAR

GOVERNOR'S VETO

H. 177.

An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Montpelier.

Pending question (to be voted by call of the roll): Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the Governor's refusal to approve the bill? (Two-thirds of the members present required to override the Governor's veto.)

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

Text of Communication from Governor

“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”

Text of bill as passed by Senate and House

The text of the bill as passed by the Senate and House of Representatives is as follows:

H.177. An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of Montpelier.

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

Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

The General Assembly approves the amendment to the charter of the City of Montpelier as set forth in this act. Voters approved the proposal of amendment on November 6, 2018.

Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 5 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 5. CITY OF MONTPELIER

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Subchapter 15. City Voter Checklist

§ 1501. ELIGIBILITY OF NONCITIZEN VOTERS

(a) Notwithstanding 17 V.S.A. § 2121(a)(1), any person may register to vote in Montpelier City elections who on election day is a citizen of the United States or a legal resident of the United States, provided that person otherwise meets the qualifications of 17 V.S.A. chapter 43.

(b) A noncitizen voter shall not be eligible to vote on any State or federal candidate or question by virtue of registration under this section.