



VERMONT MUNICIPAL CLERKS' & TREASURERS' ASSOCIATION

March 16, 2015

Cheryl Ewen
Legislative Committee Assistant
Sen. Economic Development, Housing & Gen. Affairs (morning)

Re: S.94

Thank you for inviting me to testify on behalf of the Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association regarding S.94. I will be out of town on Wednesday and unable to attend.

My name is Karen Richard. I am Clerk/Treasurer for the Town of Colchester and currently serve as the Chair of the Legislative Committee for VMCTA. The VMCTA was established in 1935. Today, our membership is comprised of 330 clerks, treasurers and assistants from 142 cities/towns. The organization provides education and training and encourages a higher degree of professionalism around the State. We have an Executive Board of eleven members which are elected at our Annual Meeting. We mentor new clerks and host a listserv as a medium for exchanging ideas. Most clerks are elected, and may come to the office with experience or not.

It is our understanding that this legislation was proposed in response to a number of towns that needed to have legislative approval to enact charters so that they could appoint a town clerk. And then the community approves the charter change or not.

This bill would allow towns without charters to have a vote in their community to change the clerk from elected to appointed. We see this as "enabling" legislation and do not see a problem with the proposal.

This proposal was presented to the members of the VMCTA that were present at the Annual Meeting in the fall of 2014 during the report of the Legislative Committee report. No one that was present voiced a concern.

Respectfully,

Karen Richard
Legislative Chair
Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association