



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Committee Bill No. 5087

LCO No. 5108



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:
(PD)

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL CHARTER REVISION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 7-191 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) The commission shall hold at least two public hearings on the
4 proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance
5 amendments; one prior to the beginning of any substantive work on
6 such charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance
7 amendments, and one after the draft report to the appointing authority
8 has been completed, but not submitted, after which hearings the
9 commission may amend such report. The commission may hold such
10 other public hearings as it deems necessary.

11 (b) The commission shall submit its draft report, including the
12 proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance
13 amendments, to the clerk of the municipality, who shall transmit such
14 report to the appointing authority. The appointing authority shall hold
15 at least one public hearing on the draft report and shall hold its last
16 hearing not later than forty-five days after the submission of the draft

17 report to such clerk. Not later than fifteen days after its last hearing,
18 the appointing authority shall make recommendations to the
19 commission for such changes in the draft report as it deems desirable.

20 (c) If the appointing authority makes no recommendations for
21 changes in the draft report to the commission within such fifteen days,
22 the report of the commission shall be final and the appointing
23 authority shall act on such report. If the appointing authority makes
24 recommendations for changes in the draft report to the commission,
25 the commission shall confer with the appointing authority concerning
26 any such recommendations and may amend any provisions of the
27 proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance
28 amendments, in accordance with such recommendations, or the
29 commission may reject such recommendations. In either case the
30 commission shall make its final report to the appointing authority not
31 later than thirty days after receiving such recommendations.

32 (d) Not later than fifteen days after receiving the final report, the
33 appointing authority, by a majority vote of its entire membership, shall
34 either approve the proposed charter, charter amendments or home
35 rule ordinance amendments or reject the same or separate provisions
36 thereof. Not later than forty-five days after a vote of the appointing
37 authority to reject such matter, a petition for a referendum thereon,
38 signed by not less than ten per cent of the electors of such
39 municipality, as determined by the last-completed registry list thereof,
40 and filed and certified in accordance with the provisions of section
41 7-188, may be presented to the appointing authority. Not later than
42 thirty days after approval by the appointing authority or the
43 certification of such a petition (1) the proposed charter shall be
44 published in full at least once in a newspaper having a general
45 circulation in the municipality, or (2) the portion of the charter or home
46 rule ordinance being amended shall be published at least once in a
47 newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality with a
48 notice that a complete copy of the charter or home rule ordinance and
49 amendment is available in the town clerk's office and that a copy shall

50 be mailed to any person who requests a copy. The town clerk shall
51 mail or otherwise provide such copy to any person who requests a
52 copy.

53 (e) The appointing authority shall, by a majority vote of its entire
54 membership, determine whether the proposed charter, charter
55 amendments or home rule ordinance amendments shall be submitted
56 to the electors for approval or rejection at a regular election or at a
57 special election warned and held for that purpose, which shall be held
58 not later than fifteen months after either the approval by the
59 appointing authority or the certification of a petition for a referendum.

60 (f) The proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule
61 ordinance amendments shall be prepared for the ballot by the
62 appointing authority and may be submitted in the form of one or
63 several questions; and, if approved by a majority of the electors of the
64 municipality voting thereon at a regular election or if approved by a
65 majority which number equals at least fifteen per cent of the electors of
66 the municipality as determined by the last-completed active registry
67 list of such municipality at a special election, such proposed charter,
68 charter amendments or home rule ordinance amendments shall
69 become effective thirty days after such approval unless an effective
70 date or dates are specified therein, in which event the date or dates
71 specified shall prevail.

72 (g) Not later than thirty days after the approval by the electors of
73 any proposed charter, charter amendments or home rule ordinance
74 amendments, the town or city clerk shall file, with the Secretary of the
75 State, (1) three certified copies thereof, with the effective date or dates
76 indicated thereon, and (2) in the case of the approval of charter or
77 home rule ordinance amendments, three certified copies of the
78 complete charter or ordinance incorporating such amendments. The
79 Secretary of the State shall distribute two copies, whether tangible or
80 intangible in form, to the State Library, where a file of such charters,
81 charter amendments and home rule ordinance amendments shall be

82 kept for public inspection.

83 (h) On and after the effective date of this section, at least once every
84 ten years, the commission shall review the charter or home rule
85 ordinance, as applicable, in its entirety. If the commission determines
86 that such charter or home rule ordinance requires amendment, the
87 commission shall propose such amendments in accordance with the
88 procedure set forth in subsections (a) to (g), inclusive, of this section.

89 (i) The commission may make minor and technical revisions to the
90 charter or home rule ordinance without following the procedure set
91 forth in subsections (a) to (g), inclusive, of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	7-191

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require that municipal charters be reviewed once every ten years, and (2) allow municipalities to make minor technical revisions to their charters without following the procedure set forth in section 7-191 of the general statutes.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. FRANCE, 42nd Dist.

H.B. 5087