1   H.702

2   Introduced by Representatives Sibilia of Dover, Pajala of Londonderry,

3   Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Cina of

4   Burlington, Gonzalez of Winooski, Haas of Rochester, Nicoll of

5   Ludlow, Ralph of Hartland, and Szott of Barnard

6   Referred to Committee on

7   Date:

8   Subject: Elections; local elections; ranked choice voting

9   Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow

10   municipal voters to vote at an annual or special meeting to use ranked choice

11   voting to elect the officers of the municipality in subsequent elections.

12   An act relating to allowing ranked choice voting in municipal elections

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

14   Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2681b is added to read:

15   § 2681b. RANKED CHOICE VOTING SYSTEM

16   (a) Application.

17   (1) A municipality may vote at an annual or special meeting to use

18   ranked choice voting to elect the officers of the municipality.

1   (2) Once a municipality votes to elect its officers by ranked choice

2 voting, the officers shall be elected in that manner until the municipality votes

3 to discontinue use of that system.

4   (b) Form of vote. A vote on whether to use ranked choice voting to elect

5 municipal officers shall be in substantially the following form:

6   "Shall (name of municipality) elect its officers using ranked choice

7 voting?"

8   (c) Use. A municipality shall not use ranked choice voting at the same

9 election at which its voters decide that the system shall be used.

10   (d) Information and training.

11   (1) The Secretary of State shall make available to municipalities

12 information regarding the ranked choice process.

13   (2) Whenever a municipality has voted to adopt the ranked choice

14 system of voting on municipal officers, the legislative body shall make

15 available to voters information regarding the ranked choice process and the

16 Secretary of State shall provide training to that municipality's election officials

17 in order to assist them in implementing that process.

18   (e) Description.

19   (1) Ranked choice voting requires a winning candidate to receive a

20 majority of votes. Under a ranked choice voting system, voters choose their

21 candidates in order of preference, by marking candidates as their first, second,

1   third, and subsequent choices. If no candidate receives a majority of votes on

2   the first round of counting, the votes are thereafter tabulated in rounds, with the

3   lowest-ranked candidate eliminated in each round and the votes for that

4   candidate transferred to the totals of each ballot's highest-ranked continuing

5   candidate (if applicable) until one candidate receives a majority of votes.

6   (2) Ranked choice voting shall conform to the provisions of this

7   subchapter, except as otherwise described in this subsection.

8   Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

9   This act shall take effect on passage.