

1 S.212

2 Introduced by Senator Hartwell

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Internal security and public safety; fire districts; general powers;
6 prudential committee; voters

7 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to provide voters of a fire district
8 with the authority to overrule a decision of the district's prudential committee
9 by a two-thirds majority vote.

10 An act relating to the authority of fire district voters to overrule a decision
11 of a prudential committee

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

13 Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2601 is amended to read:

14 § 2601. GENERALLY

15 (a) A fire district may vote to adopt the town manager system in
16 compliance with ~~chapter 37 of Title 24 V.S.A. chapter 37.~~ It may vote a tax
17 upon the ~~polls and taxable estate or upon the taxable estate only~~ for the
18 protection of property in the district from damage by fire; for the acquisition,
19 construction, and maintenance of sewers and sewage treatment works;
20 sidewalks; public parks; ~~water works~~ waterworks, water companies, and

1 equipment and real estate used in connection therewith, including reservoirs
2 and dams; for lighting; and for other lawful purposes. The prudential
3 committee and collector shall have the same power in assessing, levying, and
4 collecting the tax; as town officers have in assessing and collecting town taxes,
5 including the collection of interest on overdue taxes. The prudential
6 committee may expend such sums for acquiring, constructing, and maintaining
7 sewers and sewage treatment works; sidewalks; public parks; water works,
8 water companies, and all equipment and real estate used in connection
9 therewith, including reservoirs and dams; and for lighting purposes as the fire
10 district may vote. The committee may use and occupy such portions of the
11 highways within the district as may be necessary for constructing and
12 maintaining sewers and sewage treatment works; sidewalks; public parks;
13 water works and mains; and for lighting purposes.

14 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, at an annual or
15 special meeting called for the purpose, the voters of a fire district may overrule
16 by a two-thirds majority vote any decision made by the prudential committee.

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.