

**LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

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| Drafting Number: LLS 14-1031 | Date: April 24, 2014 |
| Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Grantham Rep. Becker | Bill Status: Senate Local Government |
| | Fiscal Analyst: Kristen Koehler (303-866-4918) |

SHORT TITLE: GEORGETOWN CHARTER UPDATES

| Fiscal Impact Summary | FY 2014-2015 | FY 2015-2016 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| State Revenue | | |
| State Expenditures | | |
| FTE Position Change | | |
| Appropriation Required: None. | | |

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the town of Georgetown, Colorado must get approval from the General Assembly to amend its town charter. This bill approves updates to the town's charter that add new provisions, modify existing provisions and codify current practices, and eliminate obsolete provisions. Specifically, the amendments to the charter address:

- the process by which the town's Board of Selectmen are elected, terms of office, and eligibility requirements;
- the conduct of town elections and how vacancies are to be filled;
- the manner in which the town's police judge (town Mayor) is elected, terms of office, and eligibility requirements;
- the authority and duties of the town's selectmen and police judge;
- proceedings for cases involving eminent domain and special districts;
- public notice requirements for ordinances;
- the appointment and roles of town officials; and
- the authority to establish a municipal court, and the procedures for the appointment and removal of a municipal court judge.

The bill also codifies into the town's existing charter eight amendments that were approved by the General Assembly in previous years.

Background

The town of Georgetown originally obtained its charter from the Colorado Territorial Legislature before Colorado became a state and prior to any state statutes being established. As such, the town must have amendments to its charter approved by the General Assembly. The charter was originally approved January 10, 1868. Since that time, the General Assembly has approved eight amendments to the charter with the most recent amendment being approved in 1983. Georgetown is the state's only remaining territorial charter.

Local Government Impact

This bill is expected to reduce workload and expenditures for the town of Georgetown. Specifically, the bill removes the requirement that the town hold a special election to fill vacancies on the Board of Selectmen and instead allows the board to fill vacancies by appointment. This will result in cost savings. The bill also provides clarity to the charter by integrating previously approved amendments, codifying current practices, and eliminating antiquated provisions. These changes are expected to reduce ambiguity and staff resources spent interpreting the charter.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon its passage.

State and Local Government Contacts

Cities and Counties

Local Affairs