

Amendment to HB 1131

1 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

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3 1 Government of Town Meeting; Optional Form of Meeting-Official Ballot Referenda; Method of
4 Adopting Official Ballot Referendum Form of Meeting. Amend RSA 40:14, III to read as follows:

5 III. The local political subdivision shall place the question on the warrant of the annual
6 meeting under the procedures set out in RSA 39:3 or RSA 197:6. ***The question shall be placed***
7 ***first on the warrant.*** Voting on the question shall be by ballot, but the question shall not be placed
8 on the official ballot used to elect officers. Polls shall remain open and ballots shall be accepted by
9 the moderator for a period of not less than one hour following the completion of discussion on the
10 question.

11 2 Municipal Finance Act; Procedure for Authorizing Bonds or Notes in Excess of \$100,000.
12 Amend RSA 33:8-a, II to read as follows:

13 II. All articles appearing in the warrant which propose a bond or note issue exceeding
14 \$100,000 shall appear in consecutive numerical order and shall be acted upon prior to other business
15 except the election of officers, action on the adoption, revision, or amendment of a municipal charter,
16 ***adoption of the official ballot referendum form of town meeting,*** and zoning matters or as
17 otherwise determined by the voters at the meeting. Polls shall remain open and ballots shall be
18 accepted by the moderator on each such article, for a period of not less than one hour following the
19 completion of discussion on each respective article. A separate ballot box shall be provided for each
20 bond article to be voted upon pursuant to this section.

21 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires that questions proposing to adopt an official ballot referendum form of meeting be placed first on annual meeting warrants.