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H.7

Introduced by Representatives Ancel of Calais, Mrowicki of Putney,
Morrissey of Bennington, Batchelor of Derby, Beyor of Highgate,
Botzow of Pownal, Briglin of Thetford, Browning of Arlington,
Christensen of Weathersfield, Conquest of Newbury, Deen of
Westminster, Devereux of Mount Holly, Dunn of Essex, Gannon of
Wilmington, Hebert of Vernon, Hooper of Montpelier, Jessup of
Middlesex, Partridge of Windham, Pearce of Richford, Savage of
Swanton, Scheuermann of Stowe, Strong of Albany, Troiano of
Stannard, Viens of Newport City, Wood of Waterbury, and Young of
Glover

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; school district consolidation; time frames

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to extend the
time frames for school district consolidation and associated dates by one year.

An act relating to amendments to Act 46 to extend time frames

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

2 Sec. 1. 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, Sec. 5 is amended to read:

3 Sec. 5. PREFERRED EDUCATION GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE;
4 ALTERNATIVE STRUCTURE

5 (a) On or before ~~July 1, 2019~~ July 1, 2020, the State shall provide
6 educational opportunities through sustainable governance structures designed
7 to meet the goals set forth in Sec. 2 of this act pursuant to one of the models
8 described in this section.

9 * * *

10 Sec. 2. 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, Sec. 7 is amended to read:

11 Sec. 7. SCHOOL DISTRICTS CREATED AFTER DEADLINE FOR
12 ACCELERATED ACTIVITY; TAX INCENTIVES; SMALL
13 SCHOOL SUPPORT; JOINT CONTRACT SCHOOLS

14 (a) A newly formed school district shall receive the incentives set forth in
15 subsection (b) of this section if it:

16 (1) is formed pursuant to the processes and requirements of 16 V.S.A.
17 chapter 11 (union school district formation);

18 (2) obtains a favorable vote of all “necessary” districts, which do not
19 need to be contiguous or within the same supervisory union, on or after
20 July 1, 2015;

1 that does not expect to become or will not become an Education District on or
2 before ~~July 1, 2019~~ July 1, 2020, shall perform each of the following actions:

3 * * *

4 Sec. 4. 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, Sec. 10 is amended to read:

5 Sec. 10. TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE
6 STRUCTURES; PROPOSAL; FINAL PLAN

7 (a) Secretary of Education's proposal. In order to provide educational
8 opportunities through sustainable governance structures designed to meet the
9 goals set forth in Sec. 2 of this act pursuant to one of the models described in
10 Sec. 5, the Secretary shall:

11 (1) Review the governance structures of the school districts and
12 supervisory unions of the State as they will exist, or are anticipated to exist, on
13 ~~July 1, 2019~~ July 1, 2020. This review shall include consideration of any
14 proposals submitted by districts or groups of districts pursuant to Sec. 9 of this
15 act and conversations with those and other districts.

16 (2) On or before ~~June 1, 2018~~ June 1, 2019, shall develop, publish on
17 the Agency of Education's website, and present to the State Board of
18 Education a proposed plan that, to the extent necessary to promote the purpose
19 stated at the beginning of this subsection (a), would move districts into the
20 more sustainable, preferred model of governance set forth in Sec. 5(b) of this
21 act (Education District). If it is not possible or practicable to develop a

1 proposal that realigns some districts, where necessary, into an Education
2 District in a manner that adheres to the protections of Sec. 4 of this act
3 (protection for tuition-paying and operating districts) or that otherwise meets
4 all aspects of Sec. 5(b), then the proposal may also include alternative
5 governance structures as necessary, such as a supervisory union with member
6 districts or a unified union school district with a smaller average daily
7 membership; provided, however, that any proposed alternative governance
8 structure shall be designed to:

9 (A) ensure adherence to the protections of Sec. 4 of this act; and

10 (B) promote the purpose stated at the beginning of this subsection (a).

11 (b) State Board's plan. On or before ~~November 30, 2018~~ November 30,
12 2019, the State Board shall review and analyze the Secretary's proposal under
13 the provisions in subsection (a) of this section, may take testimony or ask for
14 additional information from districts and supervisory unions, shall approve the
15 proposal either in its original form or in an amended form that adheres to the
16 provisions of subsection (a) of this section, and shall publish on the Agency's
17 website its order merging and realigning districts and supervisory unions
18 where necessary.

19 (c) Applicability. This section shall not apply to:

20 (1) an interstate school district;

1 (2) a regional career technical center school district formed under
2 16 V.S.A. chapter 37, subchapter 5A; or

3 (3) a district that, between June 30, 2013 and ~~July 2, 2019~~ July 2, 2020,
4 began to operate as a unified union school district and:

5 (A) voluntarily merged into the preferred education governance
6 structure, an Education District, as set forth Sec. 5(b) of this act; or

7 (B) is a regional education district or any other district eligible to
8 receive incentives pursuant to 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, as amended by
9 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156.

10 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on passage.