

1 H.98

2 Introduced by Representatives Wright of Burlington, Brennan of Colchester,
3 Browning of Arlington, Condon of Colchester, Dakin of
4 Colchester, and Myers of Essex

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Education; labor relations; elimination of strikes and imposed
8 contracts; task force

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to eliminate
10 strikes and imposed terms in connection with collective bargaining for
11 teachers' and school administrators' contracts and to form a task force on
12 dispute resolution in labor relations for teachers and administrators.

13 An act relating to the elimination of strikes and imposed terms in
14 connection with collective bargaining for teachers' and school
15 administrators' contracts and the formation of a task force

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

17 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2011 is added to read:

18 § 2011. STRIKES AND CONTRACT IMPOSITION PROHIBITED

19 (a) A strike, which shall have the same meaning as set forth in 21 V.S.A.

20 § 1722(16), shall be prohibited.

1 Sec. 4. TASK FORCE ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN LABOR
2 RELATIONS FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS;
3 REPORT

4 (a) Creation. There is created the Task Force on Dispute Resolution in
5 Labor Relations for Teachers and Administrators to study possible statutory
6 changes to improve the process for the resolution of a dispute or impasse
7 during labor negotiations for Vermont school teachers and administrators.

8 (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following seven
9 members:

10 (1) the President of the Vermont–National Education Association or
11 designee;

12 (2) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or
13 designee;

14 (3) two individuals with experience in labor relations for school teachers
15 and administrators designated by the Vermont–National Education
16 Association;

17 (4) two individuals with experience in labor relations for school teachers
18 and administrators designated by the Vermont School Boards Association; and

19 (5) an individual who shall serve as Chair of the Task Force with
20 experience in labor relations for school teachers and administrators appointed
21 by the Vermont Labor Relations Board.

1 (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall examine possible statutory
2 changes to improve the process for resolving a dispute or impasse during labor
3 negotiations for school teachers and administrators. In particular, the Task
4 Force shall do the following:

5 (1) evaluate Vermont's existing statutory provisions related to the
6 resolution of a dispute or impasse during labor negotiations for school teachers
7 and administrators;

8 (2) examine and assess the relative merits of other states' statutory
9 provisions for the resolution of a dispute or impasse during labor negotiations
10 and whether the adoption of similar provisions could improve the existing
11 collective bargaining process for school teachers and administrators in
12 Vermont; and

13 (3) examine and assess the relative merits of various methods for
14 encouraging parties in labor negotiations to resolve a dispute or impasse
15 promptly if it continues past the expiration date of the existing collective
16 bargaining agreement between the parties.

17 (d) Consultation. In carrying out its duties pursuant to subsection (c) of this
18 section, the Task Force shall, at a minimum, consult with:

19 (1) representatives of teachers' and administrators' organizations from
20 other states;

21 (2) representatives of school boards from other states; and

1 (3) attorneys, mediators, and arbitrators with experience in labor
2 relations for school teachers and administrators.

3 (e) Report. On or before November 15, 2017, the Task Force shall submit
4 a written report to the House Committees on Education and on General,
5 Housing and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Education and on
6 Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with its findings and a
7 recommendation for legislative action.

8 (f) Meetings.

9 (1) The Chair shall call the first meeting of the Task Force to occur on or
10 before August 1, 2017.

11 (2) Five members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

12 (3) The Task Force shall meet at least twice per month until the report
13 required by subsection (e) of this section has been submitted as required by that
14 subsection.

15 (4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on January 15, 2018.

16 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

17 (a) Secs. 1, 2, and 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2018, and apply to
18 negotiations beginning on or after that date.

19 (b) This section and Sec. 4 shall take effect on passage.