

1 H.664

2 Introduced by Representative Olsen of Jamaica

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; secondary schools; independent schools; school choice

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require school districts that operate
7 secondary schools to pay tuition on behalf of resident students to the public or
8 approved independent secondary school of each student's choice.

9 An act relating to secondary public and independent school choice

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

11 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 822 is amended to read:

12 § 822. SCHOOL DISTRICT TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS ~~OR~~
13 PAY TUITION; TUITION VOUCHERS

14 (a) Each school district shall ~~provide, furnish, and~~ maintain one or more
15 approved ~~high~~ schools in which it provides high school education ~~is provided~~
16 for its resident pupils unless:

17 ~~(1) The~~ the electorate authorizes the school board to ~~close an existing~~
18 ~~high school and to~~ provide for the high school education of its resident pupils
19 solely by paying tuition ~~in accordance with law. Tuition for its pupils shall be~~
20 ~~paid pursuant to this chapter~~ to a public high school, an approved independent

1 high school, or an independent school meeting school quality standards, to be
2 selected by the parents or guardians of the pupil, within or ~~without~~ outside the
3 state; or

4 ~~(2) The~~ the school district is organized to provide only elementary
5 education for its pupils.

6 (b) ~~For purposes of this section, a school district which provides, furnishes~~
7 ~~and maintains a program of education for the first eight years of compulsory~~
8 ~~school attendance shall be obligated to pay tuition for its pupils for at least four~~
9 ~~additional years~~ A district that maintains a public high school shall pay tuition
10 pursuant to this chapter to a public high school, an approved independent high
11 school, or an independent school meeting school quality standards, to be
12 selected by the parents or guardians of the pupil, within or outside the state.

13 (c) ~~The school board may both maintain a high school and furnish high~~
14 ~~school education by paying tuition to a public school as in the judgment of the~~
15 ~~board may best serve the interests of the pupils, or to an approved independent~~
16 ~~school or an independent school meeting school quality standards if the board~~
17 ~~judges that a pupil has unique educational needs that cannot be served within~~
18 ~~the district or at a nearby public school. Its judgment shall be final in regard to~~
19 ~~the institution the pupils may attend at public cost. [Repealed.]~~

1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012 and shall apply to enrollment
3 beginning in the 2013–2014 academic year.