

1 S.133

2 Introduced by Senators Mullin and McAllister

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; supervisory unions; consolidation

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the
7 State Board of Education to consolidate supervisory unions into 16 supervisory
8 unions with approximately the same boundaries as the technical center regions.

9 An act relating to consolidation of supervisory unions

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

11 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 261 is amended to read:

12 § 261. ORGANIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT OF SUPERVISORY
13 UNIONS

14 ~~(a) The state board shall review on its own initiative or when requested as~~
15 ~~per subsection (b) of this section and may regroup the supervisory unions of~~
16 ~~the state or create new supervisory unions in such manner as to afford~~
17 ~~increased efficiency or greater convenience and economy and to facilitate K-12~~
18 ~~curriculum planning and coordination as changed conditions may seem to~~
19 ~~require~~ The State Board shall organize school districts, except for interstate
20 school districts, into 16 supervisory unions that, to the extent possible, shall

1 follow the same boundaries as the career technical center service regions
2 created pursuant to section 1531 of this title, to promote increased efficiency,
3 convenience, and cost-effectiveness, and to facilitate K-12 curriculum
4 planning.

5 (b) Any school district ~~which~~ that has so voted at its annual school district
6 meeting, if ~~said~~ the meeting has been properly warned regarding such a vote,
7 may apply to the ~~state board of education~~ State Board for adjustment of the
8 ~~existing~~ supervisory union of which it is a component district. The ~~state board~~
9 State Board shall give timely consideration to such requests and may regroup
10 the school districts of the area so as to ensure reasonable supervision of all
11 public schools ~~therein~~.

12 (c) ~~The state board may designate any school district, including a unified~~
13 ~~union district, as a supervisory district if it will offer schools in grades K-12~~
14 ~~and is large enough to support the planning and administrative functions of a~~
15 ~~supervisory union. [Repealed.]~~

16 (d) Upon application by a supervisory union board, the ~~state board~~ State
17 Board may waive any requirements of chapter 5 or 7 of this title with respect to
18 the supervisory union board structure, board composition, or board meetings,
19 or the staffing pattern of the supervisory union; if it can be demonstrated that
20 such a waiver will result in efficient and effective operations of the supervisory

1 union, will not result in any disproportionate representation, and is otherwise
2 in the public interest.

3 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 262 is amended to read:

4 § 262. ~~MEETINGS~~ SUPERVISORY UNION BOARD; ELECTION OF
5 OFFICERS

6 (a) ~~Within thirty days from the date a supervisory union is established by~~
7 ~~the state board, the commissioner or his or her designee shall call a meeting of~~
8 ~~the school directors of the school districts in the supervisory union. The~~
9 ~~number of directors shall be determined and directors shall be elected~~
10 ~~according to section 266 of this title. Within 30 days thereafter, the~~
11 ~~commissioner or his or her designee shall call a meeting and the board shall~~
12 ~~elect a chairman, and other necessary officers to serve until the first regular~~
13 ~~annual election of officers. The school board of each school district in the~~
14 ~~State, except interstate school districts, shall select from its current~~
15 ~~membership one or more representatives to its supervisory union board as~~
16 ~~follows:~~

17 (1) The school board of a district that employs no teacher shall select
18 one representative.

19 (2) All other school boards shall select:

20 (A) One member if fewer than 4,000 people live in the district.

1 (B) Two members if more than 3,999 and fewer than 8,000 people
2 live in the district.

3 (C) Three members if more than 7,999 people live in the district.

4 * * *

5 Sec. 3. REPEAL

6 16 V.S.A. § 266 (school board having more than one member) is repealed.

7 Sec. 4. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

8 (a) The State Board of Education shall publish proposed supervisory union
9 boundaries developed in the manner and for the purposes set forth in Sec. 1 of
10 this act on or before September 1, 2013. The Board shall provide an
11 opportunity for written public comment following publication of the proposal.
12 The Board shall announce the final boundaries of the new supervisory unions
13 (“new supervisory unions”) on or before January 1, 2014.

14 (b) The new supervisory unions are established on July 1, 2014, and all
15 previously existing supervisory unions shall cease to exist.

16 (c) Within 30 days after the State Board announces the new supervisory
17 unions under subsection (a) of this section, the school board of each school
18 district in the state, except interstate school districts, shall:

19 (1) select from its current membership representatives to the board of
20 the new supervisory union pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A.
21 § 262(a); and

1 (2) shall submit to the State Board the names of the representatives.

2 (d) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, within 15 days
3 after the State Board receives notification that every school district within the
4 boundaries of a new supervisory union has selected representatives, the
5 Secretary of Education or the Secretary's designee shall call an initial meeting
6 of the representatives to that new supervisory union to elect a chair and other
7 necessary officers to serve until the new supervisory union's first annual
8 election of officers.

9 (e) After the initial meeting required in subsection (d) of this section, each
10 group of representatives selected in subsection (c) of this section is authorized
11 to and shall conduct business through June 30, 2014 for the limited purposes of
12 organizing and transitioning to the new supervisory union and may enter into
13 any necessary agreements for those purposes. On July 1, 2014, the
14 representatives shall be the directors of the board of the new supervisory union
15 until the new supervisory union's first annual election of officers.

16 (f) Nothing in this act shall affect the validity of any contract entered into
17 by a supervisory union or school district prior to July 1, 2014.

18 Sec. 5. STATUTORY REVISION

19 On or before January 1, 2014, the Office of Legislative Council shall
20 prepare a draft bill incorporating any statutory amendments necessary to effect
21 transition to and operation of the new supervisory unions.

1 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

2 (a) Secs. 1, 2, and 3 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

3 (b) This section and Secs. 4 and 5 of this act shall take effect on passage.