

1 S.160

2 Introduced by Senator Benning

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; labor relations; teachers and administrators

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that
7 meetings of the negotiations councils of a school board and of the recognized
8 teachers' or administrators' organization be open to the public unless the
9 parties mutually agree otherwise.

10 An act relating to public access to labor negotiations for teachers and
11 administrators

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

13 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2001 is amended to read:

14 § 2001. GOOD FAITH; OPEN MEETINGS

15 (a) The negotiations councils of the school board and of the recognized
16 teachers' or administrators' organization shall meet together at reasonable
17 times, upon request of either party, and shall negotiate in good faith on all
18 matters properly before them under the provisions of this chapter.

19 (b) Except as provided under subsection (e) of this section, each meeting of
20 the negotiations councils of the school board and of the recognized teachers' or

1 administrators' organization under subsection (a) of this section shall be open
2 to the public, and the school board shall post a notification of the time and
3 place of the meeting on its website at least 24 hours prior to the
4 commencement of the meeting. Any document presented at the meeting by
5 one party to the other shall be made available to members of the public who
6 attend the meeting, and the school board shall post all documents presented at
7 the meeting by one party to the other on its website not later than 24 hours
8 after the conclusion of the meeting.

9 (c) Meetings of the negotiations councils of the school board and of the
10 recognized teachers' or administrators' organization under subsection (a) of
11 this section shall not be subject to the Open Meeting Law, 1 V.S.A. chapter 5,
12 subchapter 2, and documents presented by one party to the other at these
13 meetings under subsection (b) of this section shall not be subject to the Public
14 Records Act, 1 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 3.

15 (d) Planning or strategy sessions of the negotiations councils of the school
16 board and of the recognized teachers' or administrators' organization, meeting
17 separately or with the entity or group they represent, shall not be open to the
18 public unless otherwise required by law.

19 (e) If the negotiations councils of the school board and of the recognized
20 teachers' or administrators' organization mutually agree that a meeting under
21 subsection (a) of this section shall not be open to the public, then subsection

1 (b) of this section shall not apply to that meeting or to any document presented
2 at that meeting by one party to the other.

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.