

1 H.190

2 Introduced by Representatives Olsen of Londonderry, Komline of Dorset, and

3 Young of Glover

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Education; education funding; school districts; budget; ballot

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require a
8 district to present its proposed budget to the voters as an amount of per
9 equalized pupil spending. Approval by the voters of the proposed per
10 equalized pupil spending would have the effect of approving the entire
11 proposed budget.

12 An act relating to requiring the electorate of a school district to vote on
13 proposed per equalized pupil spending

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

15 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 563 is amended to read:

16 § 563. POWERS OF SCHOOL BOARDS; FORM OF VOTE ~~IF BUDGET~~

17 ~~EXCEEDS BENCHMARK AND DISTRICT SPENDING IS ABOVE~~

18 ~~AVERAGE~~

19 The school board of a school district, in addition to other duties and
20 authority specifically assigned by law:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

* * *

(11)(A) Shall prepare and distribute annually a proposed budget for the next school year according to such major categories as may from time to time be prescribed by the Secretary.

~~(B) If the proposed budget contains education spending in excess of the Maximum Inflation Amount, and the district's education spending per equalized pupil in the fiscal year preceding the year for which the budget is proposed was in excess of the statewide average district education spending per equalized pupil in that same fiscal year, as determined by the Secretary, then in lieu of any other statutory or charter form of budget adoption or budget vote, the board shall present the budget to the voters by means of a divided question, in the form of vote provided in subdivision (ii) of this subdivision~~
(11)(B).

~~(i) "Maximum Inflation Amount" in this section means:~~

~~(I) the statewide average district education spending per equalized pupil, as defined in subdivision 4001(6) of this title, in the fiscal year preceding the year for which the budget is proposed, as determined by the Secretary, multiplied by the New England Economic Project Cumulative Price Index percentage change, as of November 15 preceding distribution of the proposed budget, for state and local government purchases of goods and services for the fiscal year for which the budget is proposed, plus one~~

1 ~~percentage point; plus the district's education spending per equalized pupil in~~
2 ~~the fiscal year preceding the year for which the budget is proposed, as~~
3 ~~determined by the Secretary;~~

4 ~~(H) multiplied by the higher of the following amounts as~~
5 ~~determined by the Secretary:~~

6 ~~(aa) the district's equalized pupil count in the fiscal year~~
7 ~~preceding the year for which the budget is proposed; or~~

8 ~~(bb) the district's equalized pupil count in the fiscal year for~~
9 ~~which the budget is proposed.~~

10 ~~(ii) The ballot shall be in the following form:~~

11 ~~"The total proposed budget of \$_____ is the amount determined~~
12 ~~by the school board to be necessary to support the school district's educational~~
13 ~~program. State law requires the vote on this budget to be divided because (i)~~
14 ~~the school district's spending per pupil last year was more than the statewide~~
15 ~~average and (ii) this year's proposed budget is greater than last year's budget~~
16 ~~adjusted for inflation.~~

17 ~~"Article #1 (School Budget):~~

18 ~~Part A. Shall the voters of the school district authorize the school~~
19 ~~board to expend \$ _____/t, which is a portion of the amount the school board~~
20 ~~has determined to be necessary?~~

1 ~~Part B. If Part A is approved by the voters, shall the voters of the~~
2 ~~school district also authorize the school board to expend \$_____/t, which is~~
3 ~~the remainder of the amount the school board has determined to be necessary?”~~

4 (i) The district shall present the ballot to the voters in the
5 following form:

6 “Shall the voters of the school district authorize the school board to
7 expend \$ _____ per equalized pupil in fiscal year _____?”

8 (ii) If the voters approve the ballot item, then the approval shall
9 have the effect of approving the district’s proposed budget prepared pursuant
10 to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (11).

11 * * *

12 Sec. 2. REPEAL

13 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6)(A) (exclusions from the definition of “education
14 spending” when determining whether a ballot shall proceed by divided vote) is
15 repealed.

16 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.