

1 H.61

2 Introduced by Representatives McAllister of Highgate, Degree of St. Albans
3 City, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Larocque of Barnet, Lewis
4 of Derby, McNeil of Rutland Town, Savage of Swanton and
5 Shaw of Pittsford

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Education; supervisory unions; consolidation

9 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to direct the state board of education
10 to consolidate all existing supervisory unions into 14–16 supervisory unions
11 and to require that supervisory union boards be composed of members elected
12 by member school boards.

13 An act relating to the consolidation of supervisory unions

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

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

16 § 261. ORGANIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT OF SUPERVISORY

17 UNIONS

18 (a) The state board shall ~~review on its own initiative or when requested as~~
19 ~~per subsection (b) of this section and may regroup the~~ organize school districts,
20 except for interstate school districts, into 14–16 supervisory unions of the state

1 ~~or create new supervisory unions~~ in such manner as to afford increased
2 efficiency or greater convenience and ~~economy~~ cost-effectiveness and to
3 facilitate K-12 curriculum planning and coordination as changed conditions
4 may seem to require.

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 for adjustment of the existing
8 supervisory union of which it is a component district. The state board shall
9 give timely consideration to such requests and may regroup the school districts
10 of the area so as to ensure reasonable supervision of all public schools ~~therein~~.

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 [Repealed.]~~

15 ~~(d) Upon application by a supervisory union board, the state board may~~
16 ~~waive any requirements of chapter 5 or 7 of this title with respect to the~~
17 ~~supervisory union board structure, board composition or board meetings, or the~~
18 ~~staffing pattern of the supervisory union, if it can be demonstrated that such a~~
19 ~~waiver will result in efficient and effective operations of the supervisory union;~~
20 ~~will not result in any disproportionate representation; and is otherwise in the~~
21 ~~public interest. [Repealed.]~~

1 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 266 is amended to read:

2 § 266. ~~SCHOOL BOARD HAVING MORE THAN THREE MEMBERS~~

3 MEMBERSHIP ON A SUPERVISORY UNION BOARD

4 (a) ~~For the purpose of holding meetings and transacting the business of a~~
5 ~~supervisory union, the~~ The school board of any each school district assigned to
6 a supervisory union, ~~and having more than three members,~~ shall elect from
7 ~~such board three~~ its current membership members who shall represent and act
8 for it in meetings of the supervisory union to which it is assigned. ~~But the~~

9 (b) The school board of any district which that employs no teacher shall
10 ~~have only elect one vote in said supervisory union meeting member. All other~~
11 school boards shall elect one member if fewer than 4,000 people live in the
12 district, two members if more than 3,999 and fewer than 8,000 people live in
13 the district, and three members if more than 7,999 people live in the district.

14 Sec. 3. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

15 (a) After holding at least four public hearings in different geographic
16 regions of the state, the state board of education shall publish proposed
17 supervisory union boundaries in the manner set forth in Sec. 1 of this act on or
18 before June 1, 2012. The board shall provide an opportunity for written public
19 comment following publication of the proposal. The board shall announce
20 final supervisory union boundaries no later than January 1, 2013. On or before
21 that date, the board shall also submit to the general assembly for its

1 consideration a list of any statutory amendments necessary to effect transition
2 to the new supervisory unions.

3 (b) The new supervisory unions are established on July 1, 2013, and the
4 previously existing supervisory unions shall cease to exist.

5 (c) Within 45 days after the state board of education announces the final
6 boundaries under subsection (a) of this section, the school board of each
7 district shall select representatives to the new supervisory union board in the
8 manner and numbers set forth in Sec. 2 of this act and shall submit the
9 members' names to the state board of education. Notwithstanding any
10 provisions of law to the contrary, within 30 days after the board receives
11 notification that each member district of a newly announced supervisory union
12 has elected its representatives the commissioner or the commissioner's
13 designee shall call an initial meeting of that group of representatives to elect a
14 chair and other necessary officers to serve until the new supervisory union's
15 first regular annual election of officers.

16 (d) After the initial meeting required in subsection (c) of this section, each
17 group of representatives is authorized to and shall conduct business through
18 June 30, 2013 for the limited purposes of organizing and transitioning to a new
19 supervisory union and may enter into any necessary agreements for those
20 purposes. On July 1, 2013, the representatives shall be the members of the
21 board of the new supervisory union.

1 (e) Nothing in this act shall affect the validity of any contract entered into
2 by a supervisory union prior to July 1, 2013.

3 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

4 (a) Secs. 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

5 (b) Sec. 3 and this section shall take effect on passage.