

1 H.133

2 SHORT FORM

3 Introduced by Representatives Scheuermann of Stowe, Donaghy of Poultney,  
4 Donahue of Northfield, Eckhardt of Chittenden, Komline of  
5 Dorset, Lewis of Berlin, Myers of Essex and Strong of Albany

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Education; governance; education funding; taxation

9 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to make changes to the structure of  
10 education governance and finance while ensuring substantial equality of  
11 educational opportunity for all students throughout Vermont.

12 (1) The bill would eliminate existing supervisory unions and replace  
13 them with 15 education districts (“EDs”). The boundaries of the new EDs  
14 would be roughly the same as the current regional technical center districts. If  
15 the voters of a current school district approved, the current school district could  
16 seek permission from the commissioner of education to join a different ED.

17 (2) The bill would replace local school district boards with advisory  
18 councils, which would focus on academic policy and educational quality.

19 (3) Each ED would assume the powers, responsibilities, assets, and  
20 liabilities of the current school districts and supervisory unions within its  
21 boundaries. Among other things, the ED would be responsible for:

1           (A) all aspects of special education, including the hiring of special  
2 educators, the assignment of their services to schools within the ED, and the  
3 development of individualized education plans (“IEP”); provided, however,  
4 that each student’s IEP team shall consist of those individuals required by state  
5 board of education rule 2363.4 and representatives from the ED;

6           (B) the purchase and distribution of supplies to all schools within  
7 the ED;

8           (C) financial and student data management for all schools within  
9 the ED;

10          (D) transportation services; and

11          (E) the hiring of all educators, administrators, and staff employed  
12 within the ED, with contracts negotiated and executed at the ED level.

13          (4) The bill would provide students the option to attend any elementary  
14 or secondary school operated by the ED or to have tuition paid by the ED to  
15 any public or approved independent school located within or outside the ED.  
16 Each ED would work with its advisory councils to develop procedures to  
17 ensure that no school operated by the ED exceeds its capacity.

18          (5) Differences among schools would be respected. In order to facilitate  
19 school choice, however, each ED would work with its advisory councils  
20 toward the goal of adopting common standards, requirements, curriculum, and  
21 scheduling to the extent possible.

1           (6) Within two months after formation, the new ED would be required  
2 to complete an inventory of all existing special education services available at  
3 schools within the ED. The ED would develop a proposal for a more efficient  
4 way to deliver services and allocate resources within the ED pursuant to  
5 guidelines to be developed by the state board of education. The ED would  
6 provide both the inventory and the proposal to the commissioner of education  
7 for review.

8           (7) The department would create, maintain, and make available to the  
9 public current data from the EDs, including:

10           (A) the total cost of providing special education services within  
11 each ED;

12           (B) a breakdown of special education costs by disability  
13 category; and

14           (C) measurable academic and other outcomes for students with IEPs.

15           (8) The department would develop and publicize guidelines related to:

16           (A) best practices for both the cost and the provision of special  
17 education services that are based upon the proposals provided by EDs pursuant  
18 to subdivision (6) and the data collected pursuant to subdivision (7) of this  
19 statement of purpose;

20           (B) the maximum and optimal costs for providing special education  
21 services in connection with distinct disabilities;

