

1 H.509

2 Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford and Cheney of Norwich

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; supervisory unions

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to permit supervisory unions and
7 school districts to adjust supervisory union boundaries without obtaining
8 authorization from the commissioner of education or the state board of
9 education to do so. It would also authorize a supervisory union to hire a
10 superintendent without first seeking approval from the commissioner or state
11 board.

12 An act relating to permitting supervisory union boundary adjustments
13 without state board of education involvement

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 supervisory unions of~~
20 ~~the state or create new supervisory unions in such manner as to afford If~~

1 approved by the voters of each member school district, two or more
2 supervisory unions may merge, create a new supervisory union, or otherwise
3 adjust their boundaries in order to afford increased efficiency or greater
4 convenience and economy and to facilitate K-12 curriculum planning and
5 coordination as changed conditions may seem to require.

6 (b) ~~Any school district which has so voted at its annual school district~~
7 ~~meeting, if said meeting has been properly warned regarding such a vote, may~~
8 ~~apply to the state board of education for adjustment of the existing supervisory~~
9 ~~union of which it is a component district. The state board shall give timely~~
10 ~~consideration to such requests and may regroup the school districts of the area~~
11 ~~so as to ensure reasonable supervision of all public schools therein~~ A school
12 district may become a member of a different supervisory union if the move is
13 authorized by the voters of the school district and the voters of each member
14 district of the supervisory union it wishes to join.

15 (c) ~~The state board may designate any~~ If approved by its voters, a school
16 district, including a unified union district, as may declare itself to be a
17 supervisory district and no longer a member of the supervisory union to which
18 it belonged if it will offer schools in grades K-12 and is large enough to
19 support the planning and administrative functions of a supervisory union.

20 (d) Upon application by a supervisory union board, the state board may
21 waive any requirements of chapter 5 or 7 of this title with respect to the

1 supervisory union board structure, board composition or board meetings, or the
2 staffing pattern of the supervisory union; if it can be demonstrated that such a
3 waiver will result in efficient and effective operations of the supervisory union;
4 will not result in any disproportionate representation; and is otherwise in the
5 public interest.

6 (e) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the state board shall
7 have no authority to adjust or authorize adjustment of supervisory union
8 boundaries.

9 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 241(a) is amended to read:

10 (a) Each supervisory union or supervisory district board, with the advice of
11 the commissioner, may employ a superintendent of schools. Neither this
12 subsection nor any other provision of law shall be interpreted to require a
13 board to seek or obtain approval from the commissioner or the state board of
14 education before it employs a superintendent.

15 Sec. 3. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; RULEMAKING

16 The state board of education shall amend its rules by September 1, 2012, to
17 conform to the provisions of this act.

18 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on passage.