

1 H.511

2 Introduced by Representative Manwaring of Wilmington

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; joint contract schools; consolidation; grants

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to make joint contract schools  
7 eligible to receive (1) construction aid for school building consolidation and  
8 (2) a facilitation grant to aid with transitional costs. It would also correct an  
9 incorrect statutory reference to a joint contract school as a “district” and  
10 require a joint school board to select a treasurer.

11 An act relating to joint contract schools and consolidation grants

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

13 Sec. 1. Sec. 168a of No. 122 of the Acts of the 2003 Adj. Sess. (2004) as  
14 amended by Sec. 23 of No. 66 of the Acts of 2007 and further amended by  
15 Sec. 5 of No. 153 of the Acts of the 2009 Adj. Sess. (2010) is amended to read:

16 Sec. 168a. SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION; JOINT  
17 CONTRACT SCHOOLS; TRANSITION AID;  
18 APPROPRIATION SUNSET

19 (a) After voter approval of the establishment of a union, unified union, or  
20 interstate school district or of a joint contract school created under 16 V.S.A.

1 chapter 11, subchapter 1, the commissioner of education shall pay to the board  
2 of the union, unified union, or interstate school district or the joint board of the  
3 joint contract school a facilitation grant of five percent of the base education  
4 amount in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(13) based on the combined enrollment of the  
5 participating districts on October 1 of the year in which the successful vote was  
6 taken or \$150,000.00, whichever is less, from the education fund. The grant  
7 shall be in addition to funds received under 16 V.S.A. § 4028.

8 (b) This section shall sunset on June 30, 2014.

9 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 3448(a)(7) is amended to read:

10 (7) Award of construction aid.

11 \* \* \*

12 (C) The amount of an award shall be 50 percent of the approved cost  
13 of a project or applicable portion of a project ~~which~~ that results in  
14 consolidation of two or more school buildings and ~~which~~ that will serve the  
15 educational needs of students in a more cost-effective and educationally  
16 appropriate manner as compared to individual projects constructed separately.  
17 A decision of the commissioner as to eligibility for aid under this  
18 subdivision (C) shall be final. Two or more districts operating a joint contract  
19 school pursuant to subchapter 1 of chapter 11 of this title shall also be eligible  
20 to apply for an award under this subdivision (C). This subdivision (C) shall

1 apply only to a project ~~which~~ that has received preliminary approval by  
2 June 30, 2013.

3 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 4015 is amended to read:

4 § 4015. SMALL SCHOOL SUPPORT

5 (a) In this section:

6 \* \* \*

7 (6) "School district" means a town, city, incorporated, interstate, or  
8 union school district or a joint contract school district established under  
9 subchapter 1 of chapter 11 of this title.

10 \* \* \*

11 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 572(d) is amended to read:

12 (d) Unless the school districts ~~which~~ that are parties to the contract have  
13 agreed upon a different method of allocating board members that is consistent  
14 with law, the allocation of the board members shall be as ~~follows~~ provided in  
15 this subsection. The school district ~~having~~ with the largest number of pupils  
16 attending the joint, contract, or consolidated school shall have three members  
17 on the joint board. Each other school district shall have at least one member  
18 on the joint board, and its total membership shall be determined by dividing  
19 the number of pupils from the school district with the largest enrollment by  
20 three, rounding off the quotient to the nearest whole number, which shall be  
21 called the "factor" and by then dividing the pupil enrollment of each of the

1 other school districts by the “factor,” rounding off this quotient to the nearest  
2 whole number, this number being the number of school directors on the joint  
3 board from each of the other school districts. Pupil enrollment for the purpose  
4 of determining the number of members on the joint board to which each school  
5 district is entitled shall be taken from the school registers on January 1 of the  
6 calendar year in which the school year starts. ~~Such~~ The joint board shall  
7 annually select from among ~~the its~~ members ~~thereof~~ a chairman, a treasurer,  
8 and a clerk.

9 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY

10 (a) This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

11 (b) If on or after January 1, 2011 the voters of all affected districts  
12 approved the establishment of a joint contract school, then Sec. 1 shall apply  
13 retroactively to those districts and facilitation aid shall be available from  
14 July 1, 2011 forward.