

H. 521

An act relating to making miscellaneous amendments to education law

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

First: By striking out Sec. 2 in its entirety.

Second: After Sec. 7, by inserting three new sections to be Secs. 7a through 7c to read:

Sec. 7a. 33 V.S.A. § 6911(a)(1) is amended to read:

(1) The investigative report shall be disclosed only to: the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner or person designated to receive such records; persons assigned by the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner to investigate reports; the person reported to have abused, neglected, or exploited a vulnerable adult; the vulnerable adult or his or her representative; the ~~office of professional regulation~~ Office of Professional Regulation when deemed appropriate by the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner; the Secretary of Education when deemed appropriate by the Committioner; a law enforcement agency, the ~~state's attorney, or the office of the attorney general~~ State's Attorney, or the Office of the Attorney General, when the ~~department~~ Department believes there may be grounds for criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action, or in the course of a criminal or a civil investigation. When disclosing information pursuant to this subdivision, reasonable efforts shall be made to limit the information to the minimum necessary to accomplish the intended purpose of the disclosure, and

no other information, including the identity of the reporter, shall be released absent a court order.

Sec. 7b. 33 V.S.A. § 6911(c) is amended to read:

(c) The ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner or the ~~commissioner's~~ Commissioner's designee may disclose registry information only to:

* * *

(7) upon request or when relevant to other states' adult protective services offices; ~~and~~

(8) the ~~board of medical practice~~ Board of Medical Practice for the purpose of evaluating an applicant, licensee, or holder of certification pursuant to 26 V.S.A. § 1353; and

(9) the Secretary of Education or the Secretary's designee, for purposes related to the licensing of professional educators pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 4 and chapter 51.

Sec. 7c. 16 V.S.A. § 253 is amended to read:

§ 253. CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS

(a) Criminal records and criminal record information received under this subchapter are designated confidential unless, under state or federal law or regulation, the record or information may be disclosed to specifically designated persons.

(b) The Secretary, a superintendent, or a headmaster may disclose criminal records and criminal record information received under this subchapter to a qualified entity upon request, provided that the qualified entity has signed a user agreement and received authorization from the subject of the record request. As used in this section, “qualified entity” means an individual, organization, or governmental body doing business in Vermont that has one or more individuals performing services for it within the State and that provides care or services to children, persons who are elders, or persons with disabilities as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 5119c.

Third: By striking out Sec. 11 in its entirety

Fourth: [Deleted]

Fifth: In Sec. 16, in subsection (a), by striking out subdivisions (1) through (12) in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof seven new subdivisions to be subdivisions (1) through (7) to read:

(1) the Executive Director of the Vermont Independent Schools Association or designee;

(2) one trustee of an approved independent school in Vermont that receives publicly funded tuition, selected by the Vermont Independent Schools Association;

(3) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or designee;

(4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or designee;

(5) the Executive Director of the Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators or designee;

(6) the Secretary of Education or designee; and

(7) the chair of the State Board of Education or designee, who shall serve as the committee's chair and convene the first meeting of the committee on or before July 1, 2013.

Sixth: In Sec. 16 subsection (b) by adding a new subdivision (2) to read as follows:

consider whether the decision to close a public school and reopen it as an approved independent school raises issues addressed by the Vermont Constitution or by the U.S. Constitution or other federal law; and

And by renumbering the remaining subdivision to be numerically correct.

Seventh: By striking out Sec. 20 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof 10 new sections to be Secs. 20 through 29 and internal captions to read:

* * * Compact for Military Children * * *

Sec. 20. 16 V.S.A. § 806m.E is amended to read:

E. The Interstate Commission may not assess, levy, or collect from Vermont in its annual assessment more than ~~\$100~~ \$2,000.00 per year. Other

funding sources may be accepted and used to offset expenses related to the ~~state's~~ State's participation in the compact.

Sec. 21. AGENCY OF EDUCATION BUDGET

There shall be no separate or additional General Fund appropriation to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2014 for purposes of funding the increased assessment to be paid pursuant to Sec. 20 of this act.

* * * Adult Basic Education * * *

Sec. 22. 16 V.S.A. § 164 is amended to read:

§ 164. STATE BOARD; GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

The ~~state board~~ State Board shall evaluate education policy proposals, including timely evaluation of policies presented by the ~~governor~~ Governor and ~~secretary~~ Secretary; engage local school board members and the broader education community; and establish and advance education policy for the ~~state~~ State of Vermont. In addition to other specified duties, the ~~board~~ Board shall:

* * *

(13) ~~Constitute~~ Be the ~~state board~~ State Board for the program of adult education and literacy and perform all the duties and powers prescribed by law pertaining to adult education and literacy and to act as the state approval agency for educational institutions conducting programs of adult education and literacy.

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* * * Special Education Employees; Transition to Employment
by Supervisory Unions * * *

Sec. 23. 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec. 18, as amended by 2011 Acts and Resolves No. 58, Sec. 18, is further amended to read:

Sec. 18. TRANSITION

(a) Each supervisory union shall provide for any transition of employment of special education and transportation ~~staff~~ employees by member districts to employment by the supervisory union, pursuant to Sec. 9 of this act, 16 V.S.A. § 261a(a)(6), and (8)(E) by:

(1) providing that the supervisory union assumes all obligations of each existing collective bargaining agreement in effect between the member districts and their special education employees and their transportation employees until the agreement's expiration, subject to employee compliance with performance standards and any lawful reduction in force, layoff, nonrenewal, or dismissal;

(2) providing, in the absence of an existing recognized representative of its employees, for the immediate and voluntary recognition by the supervisory union of the recognized representatives of the employees of the member districts as the recognized representatives of the employees of the supervisory union;

(3) ensuring that an employee of a member district who is not a probationary employee shall not be considered a probationary employee upon transition to the supervisory union; and

(4) ~~containing an agreement~~ negotiating a collective bargaining agreement, addressing special education employees, with the recognized representatives of the employees of the member districts that is effective on the day the supervisory union assumes obligations of existing agreements regarding how the supervisory union, prior to reaching its first collective bargaining agreement with its special education employees and with its transportation employees, will address issues of seniority, reduction in force, layoff, and recall, which, for the purposes of this section, shall be: the exclusive representative of special education teachers; the exclusive representative of the special education administrators; and the exclusive bargaining agent for special education paraeducators if the supervisory union has elected to employ special education paraeducators pursuant to subdivision (b)(3) of this section. The supervisory union shall become the employer of these employees on the date specified in the ratified agreement.

(b) For purposes of this section and Sec. 9 of this act, “special education employee” shall include a special education teacher, a special education administrator, and a special education paraeducator, which means a teacher, administrator, or paraeducator whose job assignment consists of providing

special education services directly related to students' individualized education programs or to the administration of those services. Provided, however, that "special education employee" shall include a "special education paraeducator" only if the supervisory union board elects to employ some or all special education paraeducators because it determines that doing so will lead to more effective and efficient delivery of special education services to students. If the supervisory union board does not elect to employ all special education paraeducators, it must use objective, nondiscriminatory criteria and identify specific duties to be performed when determining which categories of special education paraeducators to employ.

(c) Education-related parties to negotiations under either Title 16 or 21 shall incorporate in their current or next negotiations matters addressing the terms and conditions of special education employees.

(d) If a supervisory union has not entered into a collective bargaining agreement with the representative of its prospective special education employees by August 15, 2015, it shall provide the Secretary of Education with a report identifying the reasons for not meeting the deadline and an estimated date by which it expects to ratify the agreement.

Sec. 24. 16 V.S.A. § 1981(8) is amended to read:

(8) "School board negotiations council" means, for a supervisory district, its school board, and, for school districts within a supervisory union,

the body comprising representatives designated by each school board within the supervisory union and by the supervisory union board to engage in professional negotiations with a teachers' or administrators' organization.

Sec. 25. 21 V.S.A. § 1722(18) is amended to read:

(18) "School board negotiations council" means, for a supervisory district, its school board, and, for school districts within a supervisory union, the body comprising representatives designated by each school board within the supervisory union and by the supervisory union board to engage in collective bargaining with their school employees' negotiations council.

Sec. 26. APPLICABILITY

Only school districts and supervisory unions that have not completed the transition of special education employees to employment by the supervisory union or have not negotiated transition provisions into current master agreements as of the effective dates of Secs. 24 through 27 of this act are subject to the employment transition provisions of those sections.

Sec. 27. REPORT

On or before January 1, 2017, the Secretary of Education shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Education regarding the decisions of supervisory unions to exercise or not to exercise the flexibility regarding employment of special education paraeducators provided in Sec. 24 of this act

and may propose amendments to Sec. 24 or to related statutes as he or she deems appropriate.

* * * Out-of-State Career Technical Education * * *

Sec. 28. 16 V.S.A. § 1531(c) is amended to read:

(c) For a school district ~~which~~ that is geographically isolated from a Vermont technical center, the ~~state board~~ State Board may approve a technical center in another state as the technical center ~~which~~ that district students may attend. In this case, the school district shall receive transportation assistance pursuant to section 1563 of this title and tuition assistance pursuant to section 1561(c) of this title. Any student who is a resident in the Windham Southwest ~~supervisory union~~ Supervisory Union and who is enrolled at public expense in the Charles H. McCann Technical School ~~at public expense~~ or the Franklin County Technical School shall be considered to be attending an approved technical center in another state pursuant to this subsection, and, if the student is from a school district eligible for a small schools support grant pursuant to section 4015 of this title, the student's full-time equivalency shall be computed according to time attending the school.

Sec. 29. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 28 of this act (out-of-state career technical education) shall take effect on July 1, 2013 and shall apply to enrollments in academic year 2013-2014 and after.

(b) This section and all other sections of this act shall take effect on passage; provided, however, that Sec. 14 of this act (salary) shall apply retroactively beginning on January 2, 2013.