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H.816

Introduced by Representatives Goodwin of Weston, Browning of Arlington,
Burditt of West Rutland, Cupoli of Rutland City, Feltus of
Lyndon, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Komline of Dorset,
Larocque of Barnet, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lewis of Berlin,
Mitchell of Fairfax, Strong of Albany, and Terenzini of Rutland
Town

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; school district; independent school; tuition

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide that if
a school district does not currently operate a school offering all grades and
instead provides for the education of its students in one or more grades by
paying tuition, and if at some time in the future the district merges with a
district that operates a school offering all grades, then after merger a student
residing within the geographic boundaries of the first district shall be entitled
to have public dollars pay for his or her enrollment in an approved independent
school.

An act relating to permitting nonoperating school districts to pay tuition to
independent schools after merger

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

2 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 821(d) is amended to read:

3 (d) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the electorate of a
4 school district that does not maintain an elementary school may grant general
5 authority to the school board to pay tuition for an elementary pupil at an
6 approved independent elementary school or an independent school meeting
7 school quality standards pursuant to sections 823 and 828 of this chapter upon
8 notice given by the pupil's parent or legal guardian before April 15 for the next
9 academic year. If a district that on or before July 1, 2014 was granted general
10 authority under this subsection merges with a district that operates a school
11 offering all grades for which the first district is responsible, then the merged
12 district shall pay tuition for any student residing within the geographic
13 boundaries of the first district who enrolls in an approved independent school
14 in a grade for which payment would have been required prior to merger.

15 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 822(d) is added to read:

16 (d) If a district that on or before July 1, 2014 was required to pay tuition to
17 an approved independent school pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) of this section
18 merges with a district that operates a school offering all grades for which the
19 first district is responsible, then the merged district shall pay tuition for any
20 student residing within the geographic boundaries of the first district who

1 enrolls in an approved independent school in a grade for which payment would
2 have been required prior to merger.

3 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.