H.847

Introduced by Representatives Toleno of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, and Stuart of Brattleboro

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Taxation; statewide education property tax; study of rates

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a study committee to analyze the variations in property tax rates between economic centers and surrounding communities, and identify any impacts these variations have on economic development efforts.

An act relating to creating a study committee to study the variation in property tax rates

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

Sec. 1. STUDY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY TAX RATE VARIATIONS

(a) Creation. There is created a Property Tax Rate Variation Study Committee.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following seven members:

(1) three current members of the House of Representatives, not all from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) three current members of the Senate, not all from the same political party, who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees; and

(3) the Commissioner of Taxes or his or her designee.

(c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study the variation of municipal property tax rates in the State of Vermont, focusing on the variation between towns which function as economic hubs or centers and the towns that surround them, and are more rural, suburban, bedroom-type communities. The Committee shall study the degree to which the disparity in tax rates could, or do, in fact, hinder or constrain economic development efforts in economic centers.

(d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Joint Fiscal Office, the Office of Legislative Council, and the Department of Taxes.

(e) Report. On or before January 15, 2015, the Committee shall submit a written report to the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Ways and Means with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Commissioner of Taxes shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before September 1, 2014.

(2) The Committee shall select a chair and vice chair from among the legislative members at the first meeting.

(3)(A) A majority of the members of the Committee shall be physically present at the same location to constitute a quorum.

(B) A member may vote only if physically present at the meeting location.

(C) Action shall be taken only if there is both a quorum and a majority vote of the members physically present and voting.

(4) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 16, 2015.

(g) Reimbursement.

(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for no more than six meetings.

(2) Other members of the Committee who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than six meetings.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.