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DR14-640 – Miscellaneous Education

Proposed Substitution for Sec. 34 of version 5.1

* * * Public Schools; Privatization * * *

Sec. 34. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION; PRIVATIZATION STUDY;
REPORT

(a) The Secretary of Education shall research the constitutional and other legal consequences of a school district’s decision to cease operating a school with the intention, for the purpose, or with the result of having the school building or buildings reopen as an approved independent school serving essentially the same population of students (privatization). Among other issues, the Secretary shall examine federal civil rights law and the Vermont Supreme Court’s decision in *Brigham v. State* and shall consider issues of delegation of authority and the proper use of State funds. The Secretary shall also examine the historic and potential effects of privatization on educational outcomes as they relate to the State’s education quality standards.

(b) On or before January 15, 2015, the Secretary shall report the results of the research required by this section to the Senate and House Committees on Education, together with any recommendations for legislative amendments.