

H.876

* * * Supervisory Unions; Merger; Governance * * *

Sec. ____ . SUPERVISORY UNIONS; MERGER PLANS

(a) On or before April 1, 2015, each supervisory union, including a supervisory district, shall explore the possibility of merger with at least one other neighboring supervisory union and shall present to the Secretary of Education either a detailed plan by which it shall implement the merger or a detailed explanation of the reasons that it believes that merger would inhibit the effective and efficient use of financial and human resources or diminish educational quality and opportunities in the district.

(b) On or before July 1, 2015, the Secretary either shall approve the plan of merger or the decision not to merge or shall direct the supervisory union to explore merger further and to report again to the Secretary by a date certain with either a detailed plan or explanation, as required in subsection (a) of this section. The Secretary may request that the supervisory union explore merger repeatedly until he or she approves the plan or explanation.

(c) Until the Secretary has approved the plan or explanation presented by each supervisory union in the State, he or she shall have sole discretion to adjust the boundaries of supervisory unions, notwithstanding the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 261.