

H.361 – Senate Committee on Education
(document #307919.v2 – draft 2.1; 4/13/15)
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Sec. 1. Findings (*pages 1–4*)

Sec. 2. (a) Goals (*pages 4–5*)

(b) Obstacles (*pages 5–6*) – **question:** *omit because similar to Sec. 1?*

Sec. 3. Intent: Tuitioning Districts / Operating Districts (*pages 6–7*)

Sec. 4. Intent: School Closure (in general) / Small Schools (*page 7*)

Secs. 5–6. Quality Assurance; Data Driven Partnerships (*pages 8–13*)

- Amends 16 V.S.A. § 165
 - Comprehensive Data Collection
 - Quality Review
 - Improvement Plan
 - Accountability / Consequences

Secs. 7–8. Small Schools Support (*pages 13–15*)

- Limited to schools that are geographically isolated from school with excess capacity
- Applies FY2017 and after (place-holder)
- Transitions ineligible districts over three years

Secs. 9–10. Declining Enrollment; Equalized Pupils; 3.5% Hold-Harmless (*page 16*)

- Removes “tail” so 3.5% applies to actual count; not inflated count
- Applies FY2016 and after (place-holder)
- Transitions districts to new calculation method over three years

Sec. 11. Duties of SUs; Failure to Comply; Tax Rates (*page 17*)

- If SU or member district doesn’t comply with 16 V.S.A. § 261a
 - Tax rates for ALL districts in SU increased by 5%
 - Continues until SU / district comes into compliance
- Effective July 1, 2016 (place-holder)

Secs. 12–13. REDS and Incentives (*pages 17–18*)

- Extends date until ____

Sec. 14. SU Boundaries (*pages 18–20*)

- Amends 16 V.S.A. § 261
- Explicitly authorizes group of districts to ask SBE to move one or more districts so can more easily form a unified union school district

Sec. 15. Unified Union School Districts (*pages 20–21*)

- Amends 16 V.S.A. § 722
- Amends definition of Unified Union School District (PreK-12) to include districts that pay tuition for students in some or all grades

Sec. 16. Fully Nonoperating PreK-12 School Districts; Merger (*pages 21–22*)

- Directs SBE to realign these districts into no more than 5 by 7/1/17
- Directs SBE to establish governance structure that ensures compliance

Sec. 17. Pilot Project; PreK-12 Districts (*pages 22–25*)

- Provides tax incentives to first ____ groups of districts that:
 - Obtain vote of electorate of each district to form PreK-12
 - Vote must occur 7/1/2015 – 6/30/16
 - ADM = at least ____ *OR* between 900 and 1,100 [??]
 - Provides data for AOE study of consequences of merger
- Tax rate decreased by \$0.10 in first five years of operation
- Secretary studies and reports back

Sec. 18. SU is Local Education Agency – 16 V.S.A. § 43(b) (*page 25*)

Sec. 19. SUs to Allocate Expenses to Districts per Uniform Chart of Accounts and provide to AOE by 7/1/17 (*page 26*)

Secs. 20–24. SU Budgets Voted on Directly by Electorate (*pages 26–30*)

Sec. 25. Codifies Transition of Employees to New Employer (*pages 30–35*)

Sec. 26. AHS and AOE Coordination of Services; Report (*pages 35–36*)

Secs. 27–28. Education Technical Assistant; Limited Service Position
FY16-17 (*pages 36–37*)

- Appropriation [??]