

H.251

Introduced by Representatives French of Randolph, Ancel of Calais, Andrews
of Rutland City, Burke of Brattleboro, Conquest of Newbury,
Davis of Washington, Donahue of Northfield, Edwards of
Brattleboro, Evans of Essex, Fisher of Lincoln, Haas of
Rochester, Keenan of St. Albans City, Klein of East Montpelier,
Lanpher of Vergennes, Manwaring of Wilmington, McCullough
of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Milkey of Brattleboro,
Miller of Shaftsbury, Moran of Wardsboro, Pugh of South
Burlington, Shand of Weathersfield, Spengler of Colchester,
Townsend of Randolph, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of
Shelburne, Zenie of Colchester and Zuckerman of Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; spending; divided vote for voting budget

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require that warnings and ballots
for school budgets include the substance of the “divided vote” provisions
mandated by Secs. 5 and 6 of No. 82 of the Acts of 2007, but would permit
school districts to choose the way in which the provisions are worded.

1 An act relating to requiring that warnings and ballots for school budgets are
2 substantively the same as the “divided vote” for provisions required in No.
3 82 of the Acts of 2007

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

5 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 563 is amended to read:

6 § 563. POWERS OF SCHOOL BOARDS; FORM OF VOTE IF BUDGET
7 EXCEEDS BENCHMARK AND DISTRICT SPENDING IS ABOVE
8 AVERAGE

9 The school board of a school district, in addition to other duties and
10 authority specifically assigned by law:

11 * * *

12 (11)(A) Shall prepare and distribute annually a proposed budget for the
13 next school year according to such major categories as may from time to time
14 be prescribed by the commissioner.

15 (B) If the proposed budget contains education spending in excess of
16 the Maximum Inflation Amount, and the district’s education spending per
17 equalized pupil in the fiscal year preceding the year for which the budget is
18 proposed was in excess of the statewide average district education spending
19 per equalized pupil in that same fiscal year, as determined by the commissioner
20 of education, then in lieu of any other statutory or charter form of budget
21 adoption or budget vote, the board shall present the budget to the voters by
22 means of a divided question, in ~~the a form of vote~~ substantively the same as the

1 suggested version provided in subdivision (ii) of this ~~subsection~~ subdivision
2 (11)(B).

3 * * *

4 (ii) ~~Form~~ The form of vote- shall be substantively the same as the
5 following:

6 “School Budget Question #1:

7 Shall the voters of the School District approve a ~~total~~
8 budget in the amount of [\$], which includes the
9 Maximum Inflation Amount of education spending?

10 “School Budget Question #2:

11 If Question #1 is approved, shall the voters of the
12 School District also approve additional education spending
13 of [\$]?”

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