

H.706

Introduced by Representatives Komline of Dorset, Adams of Hartland,  
Ainsworth of Royalton, Branagan of Georgia, Dickinson of  
St. Albans Town, Donaghy of Poultney, Fagan of Rutland City,  
Hubert of Milton, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lewis of Derby,  
Marcotte of Coventry, McDonald of Berlin, McFaun of Barre  
Town, McNeil of Rutland Town, Myers of Essex, O'Donnell of  
Vernon, Reis of St. Johnsbury, Savage of Swanton, Shaw of  
Pittsford, Turner of Milton, Winters of Williamstown and  
Young of St. Albans City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; school districts; consolidation

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to create a bipartisan commission of  
legislative and nonlegislative members appointed by the speaker of the house,  
the committee on committees, and the governor to develop a plan to  
consolidate and reduce the number of supervisory unions, supervisory districts,  
and school districts in the state. The commission's plan, which would be based  
on testimony received in public hearings and would employ a methodology  
used in connection with military base closings, would be presented to the

1 general assembly for its approval or disapproval during the 2011 legislative  
2 session.

3 An act relating to the consolidation and reduction of supervisory unions,  
4 supervisory districts, and school districts

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

6 Sec. 1. SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION AND REDUCTION COMMISSION

7 (a) There is created a school consolidation and reduction commission. The  
8 commission shall be composed of four members, none of whom shall be  
9 members of the general assembly during the 2010 session, as follows:

10 (1) the commissioner of education or the commissioner's designee;

11 (2) two members to be appointed by the governor; and

12 (3) one member appointed by the state board of education.

13 (b) Members shall serve without compensation, and the legislative council,  
14 the joint fiscal office, and the department of education shall provide staff  
15 services.

16 (c) The commission shall develop a plan to consolidate and reduce the  
17 number of supervisory unions, supervisory districts, and school districts in the  
18 state. The commission shall hold no fewer than four public meetings in  
19 different geographic regions of the state and may consider a broad range of  
20 ideas to meet its charge. It shall research and employ strategies and

1 methodologies used in connection with federal decisions to close military  
2 bases.

3 (d) On or before January 15, 2011, the commission shall present its plan for  
4 consolidation to the general assembly. The plan shall include an evaluation of  
5 the fiscal and operational considerations of the planned consolidation. The  
6 plan shall take effect on the 60th calendar day following presentation of the  
7 plan to the general assembly unless the general assembly rejects the plan by  
8 voting against it in the manner set forth to overturn a gubernatorial veto.

9 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, the  
10 new supervisory unions and school districts shall not be established until  
11 July 1, 2012.

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on passage.