

H.192

Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford and Cheney of Norwich

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; supervisory union; boundaries

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to permit supervisory unions and school districts to adjust supervisory union boundaries without obtaining authorization from the Secretary of Education or the State Board of Education to do so. It would also authorize a supervisory union to hire a superintendent without first seeking approval from the Secretary or State Board.

An act relating to permitting supervisory union boundary adjustments without State Board of Education involvement

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

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 261 is amended to read:

§ 261. ORGANIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT OF SUPERVISORY  
UNIONS

(a) ~~The state board shall review on its own initiative or when requested as per subsection (b) of this section and may regroup the supervisory unions of the state or create new supervisory unions in such manner as~~ If approved by

1 the voters of each member school district, two or more supervisory unions may  
2 merge, create a new supervisory union, or otherwise adjust their boundaries in  
3 order to afford increased efficiency or greater convenience and economy and to  
4 facilitate K-12 curriculum planning and coordination as changed conditions  
5 may seem to require.

6 (b) ~~Any school district which has so voted at its annual school district~~  
7 ~~meeting, if said meeting has been properly warned regarding such a vote, may~~  
8 ~~apply to the state board of education for adjustment of the existing supervisory~~  
9 ~~union of which it is a component district. The state board shall give timely~~  
10 ~~consideration to such requests and may regroup the school districts of the area~~  
11 ~~so as to ensure reasonable supervision of all public schools therein~~ A school  
12 district may become a member of a different supervisory union if the move is  
13 authorized by the voters of the school district and the voters of each member  
14 district of the supervisory union it wishes to join.

15 (c) ~~The state board may designate any school district, including a unified~~  
16 ~~union district, as a supervisory district if it will offer schools in grades K-12~~  
17 ~~and is large enough to support the planning and administrative functions of a~~  
18 ~~supervisory union. [Repealed.]~~

19 (d) Upon application by a supervisory union board, the ~~state board~~ State  
20 Board may waive any requirements of chapter 5 or 7 of this title with respect to  
21 the supervisory union board structure, board composition or board meetings, or

1 the staffing pattern of the supervisory union; if it can be demonstrated that such  
2 a waiver will result in efficient and effective operations of the supervisory  
3 union; will not result in any disproportionate representation; and is otherwise  
4 in the public interest.

5 (e) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the State Board  
6 shall have no authority to adjust or authorize adjustment of supervisory union  
7 boundaries.

8 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 241(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) Each supervisory union or supervisory district board, with the advice of  
10 the ~~commissioner~~ Secretary, may employ a superintendent of schools. Neither  
11 this subsection nor any other provision of law shall be interpreted to require a  
12 board to seek or obtain approval from the Secretary or the State Board of  
13 education before it employs a superintendent.

14 Sec. 3. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; RULEMAKING

15 The State Board of Education shall amend its rules by September 1, 2013 to  
16 conform to the provisions of this act.

17 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on passage.