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H.889

Representative Manwaring of Wilmington moves that the bill be amended as follows:

First: By adding a Sec. 7a to read as follows:

Sec. 7a. JOINT FISCAL STUDY ON SMALL SCHOOLS

The Joint Fiscal Office shall evaluate the effect of the elimination of small schools grants pursuant to Secs. 6 and 7 of this act, and submit a report to the General Assembly no later than January 15, 2015. The report shall evaluate the effect the changes in Secs. 6 and 7 of this act will have on school spending by addressing the following questions and issues:

(1) What will be the effect on total education spending in small schools over time?

(2) What will the result be if small schools that lose their funding choose to level fund their budgets?

(3) Is there any correlation between per-equalized-pupil spending, school size, and outcomes for students?

(4) Evaluate whether the probable outcome of the changes in Secs. 6 and 7 of this act will be school consolidation of small schools or level-funded budgets with higher per-pupil spending in small schools or higher tuition payments to receiving schools, and whether those outcomes will result in increases or decreases in total education spending in Vermont.

1 (5) What will be the impact of Secs. 6 and 7 of this act on student
2 outcomes, whether positive or negative, and what is the mechanism which will
3 achieve this outcome?

4 (6) Identify any other questions necessary in understanding the impact
5 of eliminating this revenue source to small schools.

6 (7) Over what time period is it expected that schools who lose their
7 small school grants may close, and what additional investment in education
8 spending will be necessary in order to achieve this outcome?

9 Second: In Sec. 26(a), after “This section and Secs.” by inserting 7a (Joint
10 Fiscal report).