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H.883

Representative Donovan of Burlington moves that the bill as proposed to be amended by the Committee on Ways and Means as amended be further amended before the reader assistance heading “\* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \* by adding a new Section to be Sec. 13 and a related reader assistance heading to read:

\* \* \* Analysis \* \* \*

Sec. 13. REGIONAL EDUCATION DISTRICTS; ANALYSIS; REPORT

(a) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Agency of Education, the Vermont School Boards Association, and school districts, shall identify at least three groups of school districts (Test Sites) in different regions of the State for an analysis of potential regional education district (RED) formation pursuant to 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, as amended by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156. Both the school districts consulted and those analyzed shall be diversely representative of geography, size, socioeconomics, and other factors, including extreme complexity.

(b) The State Board shall comprehensively analyze the educational and financial benefits and detriments of consolidation in each of the three Test Sites, including a review of curriculum, course offerings, special programs, budgets, class sizes and student-to-adult ratios, collective bargaining agreements, district educational policies, relationships between schools and the

1 community, and other important factors identified during the process. When  
2 analyzing financial costs, and for the purposes of modeling only, the State  
3 Board shall assume that employees within a RED bargaining unit shall receive  
4 compensation pursuant to the highest-paying fiscal year 2015 compensation  
5 schedule of the original districts. The State Board shall develop a possible  
6 administrative structure and budget for the RED, as well as an estimate of a  
7 unified education property tax rate for each of the Test Sites using data from  
8 fiscal year 2015 district budgets. The State Board shall also explore alternative  
9 governance structures for the REDs and shall consider constitutionally sound  
10 alternatives, such as weighted and nonweighted voting board members.

11 (c) When it has finished its analysis, but before it has issued a final report,  
12 the State Board shall meet with the communities analyzed under this section to  
13 present and discuss the results of its work.

14 (d) The State Board shall provide a final report of its analysis to the House  
15 and Senate Committees on Education, the House Committee on Ways and  
16 Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance on or before January 15, 2015.  
17 The final report shall serve to inform future legislation related to the  
18 consolidation of existing school districts into larger prekindergarten–grade 12  
19 REDs.

20 and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.