

## PROPOSED CHANGES IN HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS VERSION OF H.883

- Require the Agency of Education to create a system of measurement of education quality, opportunity, and cost which allows for credible analysis and comparisons across districts—the system to be available by July 1, 2016.
- The number of districts in the original bill was estimated to be 45-55. The new version locks it in as 45-55. The larger number should be altered to 60 to provide maximum flexibility.
- Reintroduce the concept of a waiver from the minimum and maximum size requirements. The design team must create the criteria for requesting a waiver.
- Move proposed interim dates back by 9 months to achieve the following:
  - Provide time for the AOE to develop the information above
  - Provide time for local districts and regions to figure out the right approach before a state body is designing the system for them.
  - To provide time to put in place the design team and the support structure needed for them to complete their work.
- Require that the final plan be approved through some type of public process and accountable decision-making. The final plan must be approved either through State Board rulemaking or through legislative approval.
- As part of its preliminary plan the Design Team shall include the process and criteria for a district to request a change in its proposed placement prior to completion of the “final plan”. (This becomes the appeal process for consideration of special circumstances.)
- Creation of adequate resources within the Vermont Agency of Education which will allow them to
  - ✓ Oversee creation of the measurement system.
  - ✓ Provide timely and accurate support to districts pursuing the RED process during the voluntary period
    - Process applications in a timely and thorough manner
    - Answer legal questions
    - Provide data and data analysis related to students and costs
    - Provide adequate support funding for districts pursuing Act 153/156 projects.
  - ✓ Adequately support the work of the design team
    - Meeting with districts in all supervisory unions
    - Data and financial and tax implications analysis
    - Financial and legal analysis
    - Development of draft documents and plans
  - ✓ Support for the State Board to carry out its functions.
- Assure transition issues are covered, including collective bargaining provisions.