

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No.  
3 889 entitled “An act relating to setting the statewide education tax base rates  
4 and base education amount for fiscal year 2015 and making several changes to  
5 Vermont’s education financing laws” respectfully reports that it has considered  
6 the same and recommends the bill be amended as follows:

7 First: In Sec. 4, 16 V.S.A. § 563, in subdivision (11), in subdivision (D),  
8 after “spending of \$\_\_\_\_\_per” by inserting the word equalized and after “This  
9 projected spending per” by inserting the word equalized

10 Second: In Sec. 6, 16 V.S.A. § 4015, in subdivision (a)(7), after “in  
11 response to 2009 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec. 21(1).” by adding a sentence  
12 to read: The Secretary may also consider the available capacity of other  
13 neighboring schools to enroll additional students.

14 Third: By striking out Sec. 19 (supplemental property tax relief) in its  
15 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 19 to read:  
16 Sec. 19. Sec. D.104, of H.885, as enacted, is amended in 32 V.S.A.  
17 § 308c(a)(2) by striking out subdivisions (A)–(C) in their entirety and inserting  
18 in lieu thereof the following:

19 (A) Of the amount in subdivision (2) of this subsection, upon the  
20 recommendation of the economists for the Executive and Legislative Branches,  
21 the Emergency Board shall determine what portion of that transfer represents

1 sustainable growth in the coming fiscal year, and an amount not to exceed  
2 one-third of that sustainable growth shall be transferred to the Education Fund  
3 and an equivalent amount shall be added to the the General Fund transfer under  
4 16 V.S.A. § 4025(a)(2). For the purposes of the recommendations of the  
5 economists under this subdivision, any increase in the sustainable growth shall  
6 be reduced by the total of any legislative action projected to increase General  
7 Fund taxes that result in additional revenue in excess of \$1,000,000.00 over the  
8 revenue raised without legislative action in the current fiscal year.

9 (B) Second, the amount necessary to bring the balance of the  
10 Property Tax Relief Fund established under 32 V.S.A. § 6075 up to  
11 \$1,000,000.00 shall be transferred to that Fund.

12 (C) Any remaining amounts from the allocation in this subdivision  
13 (a)(2) shall be transferred into the Education Fund.

14 Fourth: In Sec. 22, by striking out the words “appropriated and”

15 Fifth: By inserting three new sections to be Secs. 22a, 22b, and 22c to read  
16 as follows:

17 Sec. 22a. EDUCATION ANALYST

18 The establishment of one (1) new classified position – Education Analyst –  
19 in the Agency of Education is authorized in fiscal year 2015 for the purpose of  
20 working across the Agency to create tools and indicators for use by education  
21 decision makers at the State and local level. The analyst will correlate and

1 otherwise explore connections among the various areas of work within the  
2 Agency such as student test scores, attendance, graduation and continuation  
3 rates, demographics, district expenditures by category, and staffing patterns.  
4 The analyst will assist local and State level decision makers to assess the return  
5 on education dollars based on analysis of opportunities provided,  
6 cost-effectiveness, and outcomes for a given level of expenditure.

7 Sec. 22b. BUSINESS MANAGER HANDBOOK

8 The Agency of Education shall hire a contractor or contractors through the  
9 State's procurement process to develop an updated, more comprehensive,  
10 business manager handbook that consolidates all the information a business  
11 manager would need to perform his or her function in one reference document.  
12 This document should establish a uniform chart of accounts and financial  
13 reports that are GASB compliant, uniform business rules, a comprehensive  
14 section on federal funds and compliance, State funds and compliance, and a  
15 blank section for local board policies and internal procedures that each  
16 business manager can add to the State-issued handbook.

17 Sec. 22c. APPROPRIATION

18 The sum of \$82,500.00 is appropriated from the Supplement Property Tax  
19 Relief Fund in 32 V.S.A. § 6075 to the Agency of Education for the purpose of  
20 hiring the Education Analyst position in Sec. 22a of this act, and a sum of up to  
21 \$400,000.00 is appropriated from the Supplement Property Tax Relief Fund in

1 32 V.S.A. § 6075 to the Agency of Education to hire a contractor or  
2 contractors through the State’s procurement process to develop the updated,  
3 more comprehensive, business manager handbook in Sec. 22b of this act.

4 Sixth: In Sec. 25, by striking out subsection (c) in its entirety, and inserting  
5 in lieu thereof the following:

6 (c) 32 V.S.A. § 6075 is repealed on July 1, 2017.

7 Seventh: In Sec. 26(a), after “22 (appropriation to Education Fund).” by  
8 inserting 22a (education analyst), 22b (business manager handbook), 22c  
9 (appropriation).

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12 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE