

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill
3 No. 883 entitled “An act relating to expanded prekindergarten–grade 12 school
4 districts” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5 that the bill as proposed to be amended by the Committee on Ways and Means
6 as amended be further amended as follows:

7 First: In Sec. 1, 16 V.S.A. § 4056 (statewide realignment plan; elements),
8 in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (2) in its entirety and inserting in
9 lieu thereof a new subdivision (2) to read:

10 (2) have an average daily membership of at least 1,000 students or result
11 from the realignment of at least four existing districts, or both, as may be
12 adjusted by the flexibility authority in subsection 4057(c) of this title;

13 Second: After Sec. 7, by inserting five new sections to be Secs. 8 through
14 12 and a related reader assistance heading to read:

15 * * * Special Fund; Appropriations; Positions * * *

16 Sec. 8. PREKINDERGARTEN–GRADE 12 DISTRICT SPECIAL FUND

17 (a) There is created a special fund pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7,
18 subchapter 5, comprising sums deposited into this account and interest
19 accruing to the Fund. Any remaining balance at the end of the fiscal year shall
20 be carried forward in the Fund.

1 (b) Monies in the Fund shall be available to the Agency of Education to be
2 used to support the purposes of this act as follows:

3 (1) to support the work of the Agency to provide technical assistance to
4 districts during the voluntary realignment process;

5 (2) to support the work of the State Board of Education during the
6 voluntary realignment process and to review and prepare recommendations
7 regarding the Statewide Realignment Plan;

8 (3) to support the work of the Design Team created in Sec. 1, 16 V.S.A.
9 § 4054, of this act to monitor the voluntary realignment process, to conduct
10 public hearings and other public engagement activities, and to develop the
11 preliminary and final Plans;

12 (4) to contract for technical assistance from recognized experts on
13 behalf of the Design Team, including for the services of a skilled facilitator
14 with deep experience in public policy at the community and State levels for the
15 ten or more public hearings preceding development of the preliminary
16 Plan; and

17 (5) to reimburse up to \$20,000.00 in fees incurred by groups of districts
18 during the voluntary realignment process pursuant to 2012 Acts and Resolves
19 No. 156, Sec. 9.

20 (c) The fund shall be known as the Prekindergarten–Grade 12 District
21 Special Fund.

1 (d) This section and the Fund it creates are repealed on July 1, 2024.

2 Sec. 9. POSITIONS; AGENCY OF EDUCATION

3 The General Assembly authorizes the establishment of four new limited
4 service positions in the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2015 as follows:

5 (1) one clerical position to provide assistance primarily to the Design
6 Team created in Sec. 1 of this act; and

7 (2) three analyst positions to provide technical assistance to school
8 districts during the voluntary realignment process and after adoption of the
9 Statewide Realignment Plan, to the State Board, and to the Design Team.

10 Sec. 10. TRANSFERS

11 (a) The sum of \$2,069,175.00 is transferred in fiscal year 2014 from the
12 Supplemental Property Tax Relief Fund created by 32 V.S.A. § 6075 to the
13 Prekindergarten–Grade 12 District Special Fund for use in fiscal years 2015
14 and 2016.

15 (b) The sum of \$329,000.00 in unexpended monies appropriated to support
16 the purposes of 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153 and 2012 Acts and Resolves
17 No. 156 is transferred in fiscal year 2014 and may be carried forward to fiscal
18 year 2015 for the purpose of funding the positions and activities authorized
19 under Secs. 8 and 9 of this act.

1 Sec. 11. PREKINDERGARTEN–GRADE 12 DISTRICT

2 APPROPRIATIONS

3 The following sums are appropriated from the Prekindergarten–Grade 12
4 District Special Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2015:

5 (1) the sum of \$362,650.00 for personal services;

6 (2) the sum of \$53,575.00 for operational expenses; and

7 (3) the sum of \$351,000.00 for grant funding for districts.

8 Sec. 12. EDUCATION ANALYST; UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS;

9 BUSINESS MANAGER HANDBOOK AND TRAINING;

10 SOFTWARE SPECIFICATIONS

11 Secs. 8–11 of this act are intended to be in addition to, and to work in
12 concert with, those sections of 2014 Acts and Resolves No. _____ (H.889)
13 (education tax) regarding an education analyst who shall create tools and
14 indicators for State and local education decision makers and a contract for
15 development and completion of a uniform chart of accounts; an updated,
16 comprehensive accounting manual, with related business rules, for school
17 district business managers; related training programs; and specifications for
18 school financial software.

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

20

21

1

2 (Committee vote: _____)

3

4

Representative _____

5

FOR THE COMMITTEE