

1 H.876

2 Senators Cummings, Doyle, and Pollina move that the proposal of  
3 amendment of the Committee on Education be amended by striking out Secs.  
4 44 through 65 in their entirety and inserting lieu thereof two new sections to be  
5 Secs. 44 and 45 to read:

6 \* \* \* Education; Statewide Dialogue \* \* \*

7 Sec. 44. EDUCATION; STATEWIDE DIALOGUE; REPORT

8 (a) Facilitator; appropriation. The sum of \$250,000.00 is transferred in  
9 fiscal year 2014 to the Joint Fiscal Office from the Supplemental Property Tax  
10 Relief Fund created by 32 V.S.A. § 6075 to enter into a contract with the  
11 Vermont Council on Rural Development, a neutral facilitator with deep  
12 experience in public policy at the community and State levels, to conduct a  
13 statewide dialogue about the future of education in Vermont as set forth more  
14 fully in this section.

15 (b) Community meetings. The facilitator shall convene no fewer than 25  
16 community meetings throughout the State, designed to elicit thoughtful  
17 testimony on the strengths and weaknesses of, and opportunities for,  
18 Vermont's education system. At the community meetings, the facilitator shall:

19 (1) present key points from the 2009 report of the Education  
20 Transformation Policy Commission and a situational analysis of the current  
21 state of prekindergarten–grade 12 educational opportunity in Vermont; and

1           (2) solicit public comments that identify individual and community  
2           visions, values, and goals relating to Vermont’s education system.

3           (c) Targeted meetings. The facilitator shall conduct additional, targeted  
4           meetings of identified stakeholders, including youths; parents of students;  
5           teachers; principals; school board members; superintendents and administrative  
6           staff; municipal boards and staff; business leaders; social service and nonprofit  
7           leaders; ethnically diverse Vermonters; economically diverse Vermonters; arts  
8           and cultural leaders; representatives of higher education; the Agency of  
9           Education and other State employees; alternative and independent school  
10           leaders, parents, and youths; and experts in technology, curriculum, and  
11           innovation in education.

12           (d) The facilitator shall convene a Process Team of 15 to 20 community  
13           leaders representing the regions, demographics, and diversity of Vermont. The  
14           team shall represent the people of Vermont and shall be solely responsible for  
15           the proposed recommendations required by this section. The facilitator shall  
16           meet with the Team at least monthly to report on work completed to date and  
17           plans for future activity and to receive comments and suggestions from the  
18           Team. Members of the Team shall be entitled to reimbursement of mileage for  
19           attendance at meetings.

20           (e) Analysis and recommendations.

1           (1) With leadership from the facilitator, the Process Team shall reflect  
2           upon public comments, identify and evaluate pertinent educational research  
3           and related models, identify themes, and develop a proposed description of the  
4           State’s vision for the characteristics and delivery of education in Vermont and  
5           recommendations for achieving the vision.

6           (2) In performing their respective responsibilities, the facilitator and  
7           Process Team shall consider how best:

8                   (A) to use existing resources to prepare students to be engaged global  
9           citizens;

10                   (B) to contain costs without compromising quality; and

11                   (C) to encourage local communities to work toward the identified  
12           State goals for educational opportunities and strengthened outcomes for every  
13           Vermont child.

14           (3) The Process Team’s recommendations shall include:

15                   (A) strategies to enhance educational opportunities for all Vermont  
16           students; and

17                   (B) any necessary related changes to Vermont’s education funding  
18           and governance systems.

19                   (f) The facilitator shall seek additional funding sources as necessary to  
20           complete the work required by this section.

1       (g) On or before January 15, 2016, the Process Team and the facilitator  
2       shall deliver a report to the General Assembly that is representative of the  
3       testimony received and that identifies the vision, values, goals, and strategies  
4       for enhancing student opportunities pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

5   \* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

6       Sec. 45. EFFECTIVE DATE

7       This act shall take effect on passage; provided, however, that Sec. 29  
8       (tuition for graduate and distance education programs) shall not apply to  
9       students who are enrolled as of that date in the University of Vermont in:

10               (1) a distance education course or program; or

11               (2) a graduate program other than in the College of Medicine.