

1 H.883

2 Representative Conquest of Newbury moves that the bill be amended by
3 adding a new section to be Sec. ____ to read:

4 Sec. __. LEGAL AND FISCAL RESEARCH GROUP; REPORT

5 (a) There is established a Legal and Fiscal Research Group that shall
6 facilitate and inform the work required under this act by researching,
7 analyzing, and developing an array of options of what is legally possible to
8 address legal and fiscal issues, including issues relating to:

9 (1) voting and representation on school boards;

10 (2) preservation and possible enhancement of school choice for current
11 districts that operate schools, that operate schools for some grades and pay
12 tuition for the remaining grades, and that operate no schools;

13 (3) accommodation of any new district created under the regional
14 education district (RED) process set forth in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153,
15 as amended by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156;

16 (4) the Vermont Supreme Court decision in *Brigham v. State*;

17 (5) the common level of appraisal, grand lists, and tax rates;

18 (6) the funding and payment structure for career technical education
19 (CTE) centers by new districts created under this act that do not operate a
20 center and the governance structure of CTE districts;

21 (7) employment contracts;

- 1 (8) municipal ownership of school-related property;
2 (9) procedures for voting on a districtwide budget; and
3 (10) unique matters relating to incorporated school districts.

4 (b) The Research Group shall be composed of:

5 (1) individuals with relevant fiscal or legal expertise, or both, who are
6 employed by the Agency of Education and the Department of Taxes, as
7 selected by those entities;

8 (2) one member selected by each of the following organizations:

9 (A) the Vermont School Boards Association;

10 (B) the Vermont Superintendents Association;

11 (C) the Vermont Association of School Business Managers; and

12 (D) the Vermont Principals Association; and

13 (3) one member with relevant experience, not associated with any of the
14 entities listed in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, who shall serve as the
15 Group's chair and who is appointed jointly by the Speaker of the House and
16 the Committee on Committees.

17 (c) The Research Group may create subcommittees of Group members or
18 of Group members and other individuals to perform and review the work
19 required under this section.

20 (d) The Chair shall convene the first meeting of the Research Group to
21 occur on or before July 1, 2014.

1 (e) On or before January 1, 2015, the Research Group shall submit a written
2 report of its analysis of identified issues, together with a menu of potential,
3 practical options to address the issues to the Design Team, the House
4 Committees on Education, on Government Operations, and on Ways and
5 Means and the Senate Committees on Education, on Finance, and on
6 Government Operations for review and to provide guidance during the
7 realignment process. The Research Group shall also provide its report to the
8 Agency of Education and the State Board of Education. After January 1, 2015,
9 the Research Group shall analyze additional issues at the request of one or
10 more of the entities named in this subsection.

11 (f) The Research Group shall cease to exist on the day on which the final
12 Statewide Plan is adopted pursuant to this act.