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H.883

Representative Cross of Winooski moves that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. REGIONAL EDUCATION DISTRICTS; SIMULATION; REPORT

(a) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Agency of Education, the Vermont School Boards Association, and school districts, shall identify at least three groups of school districts (Test Sites) in different regions of the State for a simulated analysis of regional education district (RED) formation pursuant to 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, as amended by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156. Both the school districts consulted and those analyzed shall be diversely representative of geography, size, socioeconomics, and other factors.

(b) The simulation shall comprehensively analyze the educational and financial benefits and detriments of consolidation in each of the three Test Sites, including a review of curriculum, course offerings, special programs, budgets, class sizes and student-to-adult ratios, collective bargaining agreements, district educational policies, relationships between schools and the community, and other important factors identified during the process. When analyzing financial costs, the simulation shall assume that employees within a bargaining unit shall receive compensation pursuant to the highest-paying

1 compensation schedule. The simulation shall develop a possible  
2 administrative structure and budget for the RED, as well as an estimate of the  
3 education property tax rates for each of the Test Sites using data from fiscal  
4 year 2015 district budgets. The simulation shall also explore alternative  
5 governance structures for the REDs and shall consider constitutionally-sound  
6 alternatives, such as weighted and nonweighted voting board members.

7 (c) The State Board shall provide an interim report regarding the work  
8 required by this section to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the  
9 House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance  
10 on or before January 15, 2015. The State Board shall provide a final report of  
11 its analysis to the same committees on or before November 15, 2015.

12 Sec. 2 EFFECTIVE DATE

13 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating  
14 to requiring a simulation of regional education district formation”.