

1           \* \* \* **Supervisory Unions; Budgets; Votes by Electorate** \* \* \*

2       **Sec. \_\_.** 16 V.S.A. § 261a(11) is amended to read:

3           (11) ~~on or before June 30 of each year, adopt a budget for the ensuing~~  
4       ~~school year~~ annually, prepare a budget for presentation to the voters of the  
5       member school districts pursuant to section 305 of this title; and

6       **Sec. \_\_.** 16 V.S.A. § 242(4)(D) is amended to read:

7           (D) prepare for each district an itemized report detailing the portion  
8       of the proposed supervisory union budget for the subsequent school year for  
9       which the district would be ~~assessed for the subsequent school year~~  
10      responsible, identifying the component costs by category and explaining the  
11      method by which the district’s share for each cost was calculated; and provide  
12      the report to each district at least 14 days before a ~~budget, including the~~  
13      supervisory union ~~assessment~~, budget is voted on by the electorate of the  
14      district.

15      **Sec. \_\_.** 16 V.S.A. § 301 is amended to read: [**DRS:** *consider if unnecessary*]

16      § 301. APPORTIONMENT OF EXPENSES

17           Unless otherwise agreed upon, ~~each school district shall pay a~~ the portion of  
18      the supervisory union budget to be voted upon by each school district shall  
19      represent that district’s proportionate share of the salary and expenses of the  
20      superintendent and the expenses of the supervisory union based on the number  
21      of enrolled students in each member school district. “Enrolled students” shall

1 be defined by the State Board by rule, including the treatment of tuition  
2 students, special education students, students enrolled in career technical  
3 centers, and other particular circumstances.

4 **Sec. \_\_.** 16 V.S.A. § 305 is added to read:

5 § 305. ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUPERVISORY UNION BUDGET

6 (a) Annually, the board of a supervisory union shall provide a proposed  
7 supervisory union budget to the board of each member school district, together  
8 with the detailed information required in subdivision 242(4)(D) of this title.

9 (b) Each district board shall present the supervisory union budget to the  
10 district voters as a separate article in the warning for the district budget,  
11 expressing the total sum in dollars, and also indicating the district's  
12 proportionate share of the total budget. If the voters in a town vote on the  
13 budgets of two or more districts, then they shall have the opportunity to vote  
14 only once on the supervisory union budget, but the proportionate share for each  
15 district shall be indicated. The voters in each district within a supervisory  
16 union shall vote on the supervisory union budget on the same day and during  
17 the same hours.

18 (c) The vote on the supervisory union budget shall be warned and held by  
19 Australian ballot. If a district does not vote on its district budget by Australian  
20 ballot, then the voters of that district may vote to proceed in the same manner  
21 as for the school district budget, provided that the number of votes in favor of

1 and opposed to the supervisory union budget shall be tallied and the  
2 supervisory union budget shall not be amended.

3 (d) The clerk of each school district shall certify the number of votes in  
4 favor of and opposed to the supervisory union budget in that district. Within  
5 ten days of the vote, all school district clerks within the supervisory union shall  
6 meet to establish and jointly certify if a majority of the commingled votes were  
7 in favor of or in opposition to the supervisory union budget.

8 (e) The supervisory union budget is established if all school district clerks  
9 within a supervisory union certify that a majority of the commingled votes  
10 were in favor of the budget. If a proposed budget is rejected, then the  
11 supervisory union board shall prepare a revised budget and shall identify a date  
12 on which all districts will vote whether to approve it. The board of each  
13 member school district shall warn the vote on the revised budget, which shall  
14 be by Australian ballot and shall take place in the same locations as the  
15 original vote. If the revised budget is rejected, then the boards shall repeat the  
16 procedure in this subsection until the budget is adopted. If the voters fail to  
17 approve a supervisory union budget by July 1 of any year, then each district  
18 shall be liable for 87 percent of its proportionate share of the most recently  
19 adopted budget; provided, however, that this shall not result in payment of less  
20 than 100 percent of the costs in the proposed supervisory union budget that

1 were attributable to the provision of special education services to the member  
2 districts.

3 (f) Following a successful vote on a supervisory union budget, the  
4 supervisory union board shall give notice to the legislative branch of each  
5 district.

6 (g) Early and absentee voting as provided by 17 V.S.A. §§ 2531–2550 is  
7 permitted.

8 (h) Unless clearly inconsistent, the provisions of 17 V.S.A. chapter 55 shall  
9 apply to actions taken under this section.

10 (i) If an audit conducted of the supervisory union reveals that the  
11 supervisory union has:

12 (1) surplus funds, then the supervisory union board shall carry the funds  
13 into the next year to be used to offset each member district's obligation  
14 proportionally;

15 (2) a deficit, then the supervisory union board shall apportion the  
16 obligation to each member district in the next supervisory union budget.

17 **Sec. \_\_.** 16 V.S.A. § 563(11)(C)(i) is amended to read:

18 (i) all revenues from all sources, and expenses, including as  
19 separate items ~~any assessment for a supervisory union of which it is a member~~  
20 the district's proportionate share of the supervisory union's proposed budget  
21 and any tuition to be paid to a career technical center; and including the report

1 required in subdivision 242(4)(D) of this title itemizing the component costs of  
2 the district's proportionate share of the supervisory union ~~assessment~~ budget;

3 *[to be moved to EFFECTIVE DATE section]*

4 ( ) Secs. — (supervisory union budgets; voting) shall be effective  
5 on July 1, 2015 and apply to budgets for fiscal year 2017 and after.

6