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H.480

Representative Sibia of Dover moves that the bill be amended as follows:

First: After Sec. 6, 16 V.S.A. § 2902, before the next reader assistance heading, by inserting a new section to be Sec. 6a to read:

Sec. 6a. 16 V.S.A. § 2904 is amended to read:

§ 2904. REPORTS

(a) Annually, each superintendent shall report to the Secretary in a form prescribed by the Secretary, on the status of the educational support systems in each school in the supervisory union. The report shall describe the services and supports that are a part of the education support system, how they are funded, and how building the capacity of the educational support system has been addressed in the school action plans, and shall be in addition to the report required of the educational support team in subdivision 2902(c)(6) of this chapter. The superintendent’s report shall include a description and justification of how funds received due to Medicaid reimbursement under section 2959a of this title were used.

(b) Based upon the information provided by superintendents pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, by educational support teams in subdivision 2902(c)(6) of this chapter, and by any other means as necessary, the Secretary of Education shall determine annually whether the students in each Vermont school are provided educational supports that are substantially equal to those

1 provided in other Vermont public schools. Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d),  
2 the Secretary shall report the to the General Assembly annually in January  
3 regarding the analysis and conclusions required by this subsection.

4 Second: By striking out Sec. 9 ([Deleted.]) in its entirety and inserting in  
5 lieu thereof a reader assistance and Sec. 9 to read:

6 \* \* \* Equal Educational Opportunity \* \* \*

7 Sec. 9. 16 V.S.A. § 1 is amended to read:

8 § 1. RIGHT TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

9 The right to public education is integral to Vermont's constitutional form of  
10 government and its guarantees of political and civil rights. Further, the right  
11 to education is fundamental for the success of Vermont's children in a  
12 rapidly-changing society and global marketplace as well as for the State's own  
13 economic and social prosperity. To keep Vermont's democracy competitive  
14 and thriving, Vermont students must be afforded substantially equal access to a  
15 quality basic education. ~~However, one of the strengths of Vermont's education~~  
16 ~~system lies in its rich diversity and the ability for each local school district to~~  
17 ~~adapt its educational program to local needs and desires.~~ Therefore, it is the  
18 policy of the State that all Vermont children will be afforded educational  
19 opportunities that are substantially equal ~~although educational programs may~~  
20 ~~vary~~ vary from district to district.