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MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Johnson, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
From: Rep. Sharpe, Chair, House Committee on Education
Date: March 20, 2015 - *draft*
Subject: FY2016 Budget – Appropriations

The Committee on Education requests that the Committee on Appropriations add the following additional sections to the FY2016 Budget Bill:

Sec. E.500.2. ADEQUACY-BASED EDUCATION FUNDING MECHANISM;
SUPPLEMENTAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FUND

Notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 4025(d) to the contrary and prior to any reversions, of the \$3,500,000 appropriated in fiscal year 2015 from the supplemental property tax relief fund pursuant to 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Secs. B.500 and E.500.3, the sum of up to \$300,000 shall be transferred to the Joint Fiscal Office for the costs of hiring a consultant to conduct a study regarding implementation of an adequacy-based education funding mechanism in the State as required by law enacted in 2015.

Sec. E.505 Education – adjusted education payment

Notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 4025(d) to the contrary and prior to any reversions, of the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2015 pursuant to 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Sec. B.505, the sum of \$620,000 may be expended by the Agency of Education for the reimbursement of costs and payment of other financial incentives available pursuant to 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156 to two or more school districts or two or more supervisory unions that are exploring or implementing joint activity, including merger into a regional education district or one of its variations.

Sec. E.505.1 Education – adjusted education payment

Notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 4025(d) to the contrary and prior to any reversions, of the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2015 pursuant to 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Sec. B.505, the sum of \$300,000 may be expended by the Agency of Education for the purpose of providing early education initiative grants in fiscal year 2016 pursuant to the provisions of that grant program; provided, however, grants shall be available only to private providers of early education if the provider:

- (1) received funds through the early education initiative grant program in fiscal year 2015;
- (2) is located within the boundaries of a school district that will not be providing the private provider with tuition reimbursement payments in fiscal year 2016 pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 829, as amended by 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 166, Sec. 1; and
- (3) either:
 - (A) is not eligible for funding under the federal preschool expansion grant awarded to the State; or
 - (B) is eligible for the funding, but has not received the funds on or before July 1, 2015.