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H.76

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

Sec. 1. TASK FORCE ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN LABOR
RELATIONS FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS;
REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created a Task Force on Dispute Resolution in Labor Relations for Teachers and Administrators to study the issue of impasse resolution in labor negotiations for school teachers and administrators.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following seven members:

(1) the President of the Vermont – National Education Association or designee;

(2) two individuals with experience in labor relations designated by the Vermont – National Education Association;

(3) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or designee;

(4) two individuals with experience in labor relations designated by the Vermont School Boards Association; and

(5) an individual with experience in labor relations mutually agreed upon by the other members of the Task Force who shall serve as the Chair of

1 the Task Force. If the other members of the Task Force are unable to mutually
2 agree upon the individual who shall serve as the Chair of the Task Force by
3 July 15, 2015, the Vermont Labor Relations Board shall appoint the individual.

4 (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall evaluate the existing statutes
5 governing labor relations for school teachers and administrators, and shall
6 consider whether legislative changes are necessary to improve the existing
7 process for resolving a dispute or impasse during labor negotiations. In
8 particular, the Task Force shall:

9 (1) evaluate the existing practices and statutory provisions related to
10 labor negotiations for school teachers and administrators and identify specific
11 barriers to the effective resolution of a dispute or impasse during negotiations;

12 (2) examine the historic frequency of strikes and contract impositions in
13 Vermont and the resulting impacts on local communities and schools;

14 (3) examine the historic frequency of labor negotiations continuing past
15 the expiration date of the previous contract and identify any resulting impacts
16 on the parties created by the failure to conclude negotiations prior to the
17 expiration date;

18 (4) assess the relative merits of various alternative methods for the
19 resolution of a dispute or impasse during labor negotiations and whether such
20 alternatives could improve the collective bargaining process for school teachers
21 and administrators in Vermont; and

1 (5) assess the relative merits of various methods for encouraging parties
2 in labor negotiations to promptly resolve a dispute or impasse if it continues
3 past the expiration date of the existing collective bargaining agreement.

4 (d) Report. On or before January 15, 2016, the Task Force shall submit a
5 written report to the House Committees on Education and on General, Housing
6 and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Education and on
7 Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with its findings and
8 any recommendation for legislative action to amend 16 V.S.A. chapter 57
9 (labor relations for teachers and administrators) to improve the existing process
10 for resolving a dispute or impasse during labor negotiations. If the Task Force
11 recommends legislative action, it shall recommend legislation that would have
12 an effective date of July 1, 2018 and be applicable to negotiations for collective
13 bargaining agreements taking effect on or after July 1, 2019.

14 (e) Meetings.

15 (1) The Chair of the Task Force shall call the first meeting of the Task
16 Force to occur on or before August 15, 2015.

17 (2) Five members of the Task Force membership shall constitute a
18 quorum.

19 (3) The Task Force shall meet at least once per month until it submits its
20 report to the General Assembly pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

21 (4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on January 30, 2016.

1 (f) Costs. All expenses of the Chair appointed to the Task Force shall be
2 borne jointly by the other six members of the Task Force.

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.