

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 Representative Sharpe of Bristol, on behalf of the Committee on Education,
3 recommends that the Committee on Appropriations report on House Bill No.
4 859 entitled “An act relating to special education” be amended by striking out
5 Sec. 2 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read:

6 Sec. 2. STUDY OF FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

7 (a) Study. The Agency of Education shall provide a grant to the University
8 of Vermont for a study of special education funding and practice. The study
9 shall evaluate the feasibility of implementing the census block model of
10 funding, or a variation of this model as the University of Vermont deems
11 appropriate, for special education in Vermont, including the advantages,
12 disadvantages, and policy considerations. The study shall develop a special
13 education funding model recommendation for Vermont, which shall be
14 designed to provide incentives for desirable practices and stimulate innovation
15 in the delivery of services and shall take into account any factors the
16 University of Vermont determines are relevant. The University of Vermont
17 shall conduct its evaluation and develop its recommendation in collaboration
18 with the Agency of Education and interested superintendents, special
19 educators, school business and administrative staff, and special education staff
20 from the Vermont State Colleges and other stakeholders. The University of

1 Vermont shall present its findings and recommendations to the General
2 Assembly and the Agency of Education on or before December 15, 2017.
3 (b) Funding. The Agency of Education shall provide, from its fiscal year
4 2017 appropriation, grant funding in an amount of \$90,000.00 to the
5 University of Vermont for the purposes set forth in this section. Any
6 application of funds for the purpose of administrative overhead shall be capped
7 at five percent of the total sum allocated pursuant to this section.