

1 H.156

2 Introduced by Representative Haas of Rochester

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; equalized pupils; hold-harmless phase-out

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to delay by one
7 year: (1) the phase-out of the declining student hold-harmless provision for a
8 school that, on or before July 1, 2017, formed a study committee pursuant to
9 16 V.S.A. chapter 11; and (2) the repeal of the hold-harmless provision.

10 An act relating to the phase-out of the declining student hold-harmless
11 provision

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, Sec. 23 is amended to read:

14 Sec. 23. DECLINING ENROLLMENT; TRANSITION

15 (a) If a district's equalized pupils in fiscal year 2016 do not reflect any
16 adjustment pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4010(f), then Sec. 22 of this act shall apply
17 to the district in fiscal year 2017 and after.

18 (b) If a district's equalized pupils in fiscal year 2016 reflect adjustment
19 pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4010(f), then, notwithstanding the provisions of
20 § 4010(f) as amended by this act:

1 (1) in fiscal year 2017, the district's equalized pupils shall in no case be
2 less than 90 percent of the district's equalized pupils in the previous year; and

3 (2) in fiscal year 2018, the district's equalized pupils shall in no case be
4 less than 80 percent of the district's equalized pupils in the previous year.

5 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this
6 section, if a district is actively engaged in merger discussions with one or more
7 other districts regarding the formation of a regional education district (RED) or
8 other form of unified union school district pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 11,
9 then Sec. 22 of this act shall apply to the district in fiscal year ~~2018~~ 2019 and
10 after, and each of the dates in subsection (b) of this section shall be adjusted
11 accordingly. A district shall be "actively engaged in merger discussions"
12 pursuant to this subsection (c) if on or before July 1, ~~2016~~ 2017, it has formed
13 a study committee pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 11. Until such time as
14 Sec. 22 of this act shall apply to the district, the district's equalized pupil count
15 shall be calculated under 16 V.S.A. § 4010(f), as in effect on June 30, 2016.

16 Sec. 2. 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, Sec. 24 is amended to read:

17 Sec. 24. REPEAL

18 16 V.S.A. § 4010(f) (declining enrollment; hold-harmless provision) is
19 repealed on July 1, ~~2020~~ 2021.

20 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

21 This act shall take effect on passage.