

H.174

Introduced by Representatives Beck of St. Johnsbury and Bartholomew of
Hartland

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; school district consolidation; side-by-side structures

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide
greater flexibility for school district consolidation by providing tax incentives
for a side-by-side regional educational district structure where three or more
school districts merge and the newly merged district, together with a
pre-existing district, are members of the same supervisory union at the
completion of the consolidation process.

An act relating to school district consolidation

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

Sec. 1. 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156, Sec. 15 is amended to read:

Sec. 15. TWO OR MORE MERGERS; REGIONAL EDUCATION

DISTRICT INCENTIVES

(a) Notwithstanding ~~Sec. 3(a)(1) of No. 153 of the Acts of the 2009~~
~~Adj. Sess. (2010)~~ 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec. 3(a)(1) that requires a
single regional education district ("RED") to have an average daily

1 membership of at least 1,250 or result from the merger of at least four districts,
2 or both, ~~two or more each new districts district~~ shall be eligible ~~jointly~~ for the
3 incentives provided in ~~Sec. 4 of No. 153, Sec. 4~~ if:

4 (1) Either:

5 (A) two or more new districts are formed (each a Merged District)
6 and are members of the same supervisory union at the completion of the
7 consolidation process, with each new district is Merged District formed by the
8 merger of at least two existing districts (Dual Merger Model); or

9 (B) one district is newly formed by the merger of at least three
10 existing districts (Merged District) and the other district is an existing district
11 (Existing District), and the Merged District and the Existing District are
12 members of the same supervisory union at the completion of the consolidation
13 process (Single Merger Model).

14 (2) ~~each new district meets~~ Each Merged District in the Dual Merger
15 Model and each of the Merged District and the Existing District in the Single
16 Merger Model meet all criteria for RED formation other than the size criterion
17 of 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec. 3(a)(1) of No. 153; (average daily
18 membership of at least 1,250) and otherwise as provided in this section.

19 (3) ~~one of the new districts provides education in all elementary and~~
20 ~~secondary grades by operating one or more schools and the other new district~~
21 ~~or districts pay tuition for students in one or more grades;~~

1 ~~(4) each new district~~ Each Merged District in the Dual Merger Model
2 has the same effective date of merger;

3 ~~(5) the new districts, when merged, are members of one supervisory~~
4 ~~union; and~~

5 ~~(6)(4) the new districts~~ The Merged Districts in the Dual Merger Model,
6 and the Merged District and the Existing District in the Single Merger Model,
7 jointly satisfy the size criterion of Sec. 3(a)(1) of No. 153 have an average
8 daily membership of at least 1,250.

9 ~~(b) This section is repealed on July 1, 2017~~ Each Merged District in the
10 Dual Merger Model, and each of the Merged District and the Existing District
11 in the Single Merger Model, may operate schools for one or more grades, may
12 pay tuition for one or more grades, or may operate schools for some grades and
13 pay tuition for other grades.

14 ~~(c) The tax incentives provided in 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, Sec. 4~~
15 shall be available to each Merged District and shall not be available to an
16 Existing District.

17 Sec. 2. 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, Sec. 10 is amended to read:

18 Sec. 10. TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE

19 STRUCTURES; PROPOSAL; FINAL PLAN

20 * * *

1 (c) Applicability. This section shall not apply to:

2 * * *

3 (3) a district that, between June 30, 2013 and July 2, 2019, ~~began to~~
4 ~~operate as a unified union school district and:~~

5 (A) voluntarily merged into the preferred education governance
6 structure, an Education District, as set forth Sec. 5(b) of this act; or

7 (B) is a regional education district or a member of any ~~other district~~
8 ~~eligible to receive incentives~~ governance structure formed pursuant to 2010
9 Acts and Resolves No. 153, as amended by 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156
10 and as further amended by this act, or pursuant to 2012 Acts and Resolves No.
11 156 as amended by this act.

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13 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.