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H.266

Introduced by Representatives Head of South Burlington, Dunn of Essex,
Kitzmiller of Montpelier, LaLonde of South Burlington, Pugh
of South Burlington, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of
Burlington, Till of Jericho, Townsend of South Burlington, and
Walz of Barre City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; independent schools; out-of-state; public funding

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit the
public funding of tuition for out-of-state independent schools.

An act relating to public funding of out-of-state independent schools

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

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 11 is amended to read:

§ 11. CLASSIFICATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

(a) As used in this title, unless the context otherwise clearly requires:

* * *

(8) “Independent school” means a school in Vermont other than a public
school, which provides a program of elementary or secondary education, or
both. An “independent school meeting education quality standards” means an

1 independent school in Vermont that undergoes the education quality standards
2 process and meets the requirements of subsection 165(b) of this title.

3 * * *

4 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 822 is amended to read:

5 § 822. SCHOOL DISTRICT TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS OR
6 PAY TUITION

7 (a) Each school district shall maintain one or more approved high schools
8 in which high school education is provided for its resident students unless:

9 (1) the electorate authorizes the school board to close an existing high
10 school and to provide for the high school education of its students by paying
11 tuition to a public high school, an approved independent high school, or an
12 independent school meeting education quality standards, to be selected by the
13 parents or guardians of the student, ~~within or outside the State~~; or

14 * * *

15 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 828 is amended to read:

16 § 828. TUITION TO APPROVED SCHOOLS; AGE; APPEAL

17 A school district shall not pay the tuition of a student except to a public
18 school, an approved independent school, an independent school meeting
19 education quality standards, a tutorial program approved by the State Board, or
20 an approved education program, ~~or an independent school in another state or~~
21 ~~country approved under the laws of that state or country~~, nor shall payment of

1 tuition on behalf of a person be denied on account of age. Unless otherwise
2 provided, a person who is aggrieved by a decision of a school board relating to
3 eligibility for tuition payments, the amount of tuition payable, or the school he
4 or she may attend, may appeal to the State Board and its decision shall be final.

5 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

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