

1 H.274

2 Introduced by Representatives Sibia of Dover, Gannon of Wilmington,

3 Jickling of Brookfield, and Olsen of Londonderry

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Education; report on rural schools

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the
8 Agency of Education to provide the House and Senate Committees on
9 Education with a recommendation on the addition of a school district
10 population density factor to the weighting factors used to determine equalized
11 pupil counts, an outline of the minimum educational, social, and operational
12 opportunities high schools located in rural Vermont should be required to have,
13 and an opinion on the likely educational, demographic, and economic
14 consequences of schools in rural Vermont closing.

15 An act relating to rural schools

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

17 Sec. 1. REPORTS ON RURAL SCHOOLS

18 The Agency of Education shall provide the House and Senate Committees
19 on Education with the following information on or before December 15, 2017:

1 (1) A recommendation on how the addition of a school district
2 population density factor to the weighting factors used to determine equalized
3 pupil counts under 16 V.S.A. § 4010 could provide educational opportunities
4 to students on a more equitable basis across the State.

5 (2) A detailed outline of the minimum educational, social, and
6 operational opportunities high schools located in rural Vermont should be
7 required to have, the rationale for the minimums, and a list of Vermont's rural
8 high schools that as of June 30, 2017 are not meeting those minimums.

9 (3) An opinion, developed with input from Regional Planning
10 Commissions and Regional Development Corporations operating outside
11 Chittenden County, on the likely educational, demographic, and economic
12 consequences of schools in rural Vermont closing and a recommendation on
13 how those consequences might be mitigated.

14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on passage.