

H.509

An act relating to calculating statewide education tax rates

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

* * * Yields and Nonresidential Tax Rate * * *

Sec. 1. PROPERTY DOLLAR EQUIVALENT YIELD AND INCOME

DOLLAR EQUIVALENT YIELD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

Pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5402b(b), for fiscal year 2018 only:

- (1) the property dollar equivalent yield is \$10,160.00; and
- (2) the income dollar equivalent yield is \$11,990.00.

Sec. 2. NONRESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR
2018

For fiscal year 2018 only, the nonresidential education property tax imposed under 32 V.S.A. § 5402(a)(2) shall be reduced from the rate of \$1.59 and instead be \$1.555 per \$100.00.

* * * Education Fund Allocation; Sales and Use Tax * * *

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 4025 is amended to read:

§ 4025. EDUCATION FUND

(a) ~~An~~ The Education Fund is established to comprise the following:

* * *

(6) ~~Thirty-five~~ Thirty-six percent of the revenues raised from the sales and use tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. chapter 233.

* * *

Sec. 4. 32 V.S.A. § 435(b) is amended to read:

(b) The General Fund shall be composed of revenues from the following sources:

* * *

(11) ~~65~~ 64 percent of the revenue from sales and use taxes levied pursuant to chapter 233 of this title;

* * *

* * * Health Benefits Commission * * *

Sec. 5. VERMONT EDUCATIONAL HEALTH BENEFITS COMMISSION

(a) The Vermont Educational Health Benefits Commission is created to determine whether and how to establish a single statewide health benefit plan for all teachers, administrators, and other employees of supervisory unions and school districts.

(b) The Commission shall comprise the following 10 members:

(1) four members of the labor organization representing the majority of teachers, administrators, and other employees of supervisory unions and school districts, appointed by its membership;

(2) one member on behalf of all other labor organizations representing teachers, administrators, and other employees of supervisory unions and school districts, jointly appointed by their membership;

(3) three members of the nonprofit organization representing Vermont's school boards, appointed by that organization's members; and

(4) two members of the nonprofit organization representing Vermont's superintendents, appointed by that organization's members.

(c) The Commission shall determine the advantages and disadvantages of establishing a single statewide health benefit plan for all teachers, administrators, and other employees of supervisory unions and school districts, including considering transition issues, potential savings from avoided negotiation expenses, whether to use income-sensitized premiums, ways to address benefit disparities between bargaining units, ways to address disparities between districts, property tax implications, and issues related to uninsured school employees.

(d) On or before November 15, 2017, the Commission shall provide its findings and recommendations, along with any necessary proposed legislation regarding the establishment of a statewide health benefit plan for all teachers, administrators, and other employees of supervisory unions and school districts, to the House Committees on Education, on General, Housing and Military Affairs, and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Education, on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, and on Finance.

(e) As used in this section, the terms "supervisory union" and "school district" shall have the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 11.

* * * Health Care Benefits and Coverage * * *

Sec. 6. HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AND COVERAGE FOR TEACHERS,
ADMINISTRATORS, AND OTHER EMPLOYEES OF
SUPERVISORY UNIONS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

(a) The health care benefit and coverage provisions of a collective bargaining agreement between a supervisory union or school district and its teachers, administrators, or other employees shall expire on or before September 1, 2019.

(b) As used in this section, the terms “supervisory union” and “school district” shall have the same meaning as in 16 V.S.A. § 11.

(c) This section shall not apply to collective bargaining agreements that were, prior to July 1, 2017, either executed or agreed to by a school board negotiations council and employee organization negotiations council pending ratification by the school board and by the bargaining unit or members of the employee organization.

* * * Effective Dates * * *

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section shall take effect on passage.

(b) Secs. 1 (yields) and 2 (nonresidential rate) shall take effect on July 1, 2017 and apply to fiscal year 2018 and after.

(c) Secs. 3 and 4 (sales tax allocation) shall take effect on July 1, 2018 and apply to fiscal year 2019 and after.

(d) Sec. 5 (Vermont Educational Health Benefits Commission) shall take effect on passage, with the first meeting of the Commission to occur on or before July 1, 2017.

(e) Sec. 6 (health care benefits and coverage) shall take effect on July 1, 2017.