

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Ways and Means to which was referred House Bill No.
3 897 entitled “An act relating to enhancing the effectiveness, availability, and
4 equity of services provided to students who require additional support”
5 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
6 bill be amended as follows:

7 First: In Sec. 9, Census-based Funding Advisory Group, by striking out
8 subsection (h) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (h)
9 to read:

10 (h) Appropriation. The sum of \$6,400.00 is appropriated for fiscal year
11 2018 from the General Fund to the Agency of Education to provide funding for
12 the purposes set forth in this section.

13 Second: By striking the reader assistance preceding Sec. 10 in its entirety
14 and inserting in lieu thereof a new reader assistance to read:

15 * * * Report on methods to further the quality and equity of educational
16 outcomes for students * * *

17 Third: By striking out Sec. 11 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a
18 new Sec. 11 to read:

1 Sec. 11. **REPORT ON METHODS TO FURTHER THE QUALITY AND**
2 **EQUITY OF EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS**

3 (a) The Agency of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Human
4 Services, the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Vermont School
5 Boards Association, and the Vermont-National Education Association, shall
6 consider and make recommendations on the following:

7 (1) Methods, other than the use of per pupil weighting factors, that
8 would further the quality and equity of educational outcomes for students.

9 (2) The criteria used for determining weighted long-term membership of
10 a school district under 16 V.S.A. § 4010, including each of the following:

11 (A) The current weighting factors and any supporting evidence or
12 basis in the historical record for these factors.

13 (B) The relationship between each of the current weighting factors
14 and the quality and equity of educational outcomes for students.

15 (C) Whether any of the weighting factors, including the weighting
16 factors for students from economically deprived backgrounds and for students
17 for whom English is not the primary language, should be modified, and if so,
18 how the weighting factors should be modified and if the modification would
19 further the quality and equity of educational outcomes for students.

20 (D) Whether to add any weighting factors, including a school district
21 population density factor and a factor for students who attend regional career

1 technical education centers, and if so, why the weighting factor should be
2 added and if the weighting factor would further the quality and equity of
3 educational outcomes for students. In considering whether to recommend the
4 addition of a school district population density factor, the Agency of Education
5 shall consider the practices of other states, information from the National
6 Conference of State Legislatures, and research conducted by higher education
7 institutions working on identifying rural or urban education financing factors.

8 (3) The criteria to be applied by the State Board of Education in its
9 rulemaking process for increasing the amount of educational support grants
10 paid by the State to supervisory unions in order to provide additional financial
11 support to supervisory unions with relatively high costs due to the number of
12 students who require additional support or the nature of the services required.
13 The criteria shall include the qualification requirements for the adjustment and
14 the manner in which the adjustment should be applied. In making this
15 recommendation, the Agency of Education shall consider the report entitled
16 “Study of Vermont State Funding for Special Education” issued in December
17 2017 by the University of Vermont Department of Education and Social
18 Services.

19 (b) On or before March 15, 2019, the Agency of Education shall submit a
20 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education, the House

1 Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance with its
2 findings and any recommendations.

3 (c) The Agency of Education shall have the technical assistance of the Joint
4 Fiscal Office and the Office of Legislative Council.

5 (d) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in 16 V.S.A. § 4025, the
6 sum of \$300,000.00 is appropriated for fiscal year 2018 from the Education
7 Fund to the Agency of Education to provide funding for the purposes set forth
8 in this section. The Agency of Education shall contract with a contractor with
9 expertise in Vermont’s education funding system to assist the Agency in
10 producing the study required by this section. Any application of funds for the
11 purpose of administrative overhead shall be capped at ten percent of the total
12 sum allocated pursuant to this subsection.

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15 (Committee vote: _____)

16 _____

17 Representative _____

18 FOR THE COMMITTEE