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H.911

Representative Higley of Lowell moves that the bill be amended as follows:

First: By inserting a Sec. 21a to read:

*** Cost Containment; Allowable Growth in Education

Spending for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 ***

Sec. 21a. ALLOWABLE GROWTH IN EDUCATION SPENDING FOR
FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 only, “excess spending” under 32 V.S.A. § 5401(12) shall be calculated as follows:

(1) For districts where the total amount of exclusions in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6)(B) either stays the same or increases from the prior fiscal year to the current fiscal year, “excess spending” means the per-equalized-pupil amount of the district’s education spending, plus any amount required to be added from a Capital Construction Reserve Fund under 24 V.S.A. § 2804(b) that is in excess of the district’s per-equalized-pupil amount of education spending in the prior fiscal year, plus the district’s allowable growth. As used in this subdivision, “education spending” means education spending as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6) after the exclusions in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6)(B) are subtracted.

(2) For districts where the total amount of exclusions in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6)(B) decreases from the prior fiscal year to the current fiscal year,

1 “excess spending” means the per-equalized-pupil amount of the district’s
2 education spending, plus any amount required to be added from a Capital
3 Construction Reserve Fund under 24 V.S.A. § 2804(b) that is in excess of the
4 district’s per-equalized-pupil amount of total education spending in the prior
5 fiscal year, plus the district’s allowable growth. As used in this subdivision,
6 “education spending” means education spending as defined in 16 V.S.A.
7 § 4001(6) before the exclusions in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6)(B) are subtracted.

8 (b) For fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the “allowable growth” for any
9 individual school district is an amount equal to the actual amount of
10 per-equalized-pupil education spending in the district in the prior fiscal year,
11 multiplied by the district’s “allowable growth percentage.” A district’s
12 “allowable growth percentage” means a percentage that results from the
13 following equation: the highest per-equalized-pupil amount of the education
14 spending in any district in the State in the prior fiscal year, divided by the
15 actual amount of per-equalized-pupil education spending in the district in the
16 prior fiscal year, minus one, multiplied by five and one-half percent. For the
17 purpose of the calculations made under this subsection, the term “education
18 spending” refers to education spending as used to calculate excess spending
19 under 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), including all the adjustments under 16 V.S.A.
20 § 4001(6)(B).

1 Second: In Sec. 22 (effective dates), in subsection (e), by striking out “19”
2 and inserting in lieu thereof “16”, and by adding subsections (g) and (h) to read
3 as follows:

4 (g) Sec. 17–19 (excess spending repeal) shall take effect on July 1, 2021
5 and apply to fiscal year 2022 and after. Notwithstanding any other provision
6 of law, for fiscal year 2019 only, “excess spending” calculated under 32 V.S.A.
7 § 5401(12) shall be zero for every district.

8 (h) Sec. 21a (allowable growth) shall take effect on July 1, 2019 and apply
9 to fiscal years 2020 and 2021 only.