



STATE OF VERMONT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 12, 2017

House Committee on Education
Vermont State House, Room 32
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301
Via email to: Marjorie Zunder, mzunder@leg.state.vt.us

RE: suggested additions to S.122

Dear Chairman Sharpe and Committee Members:

Thank you for continuing to take testimony and consider revisions to S.122. While the House Education Committee has decided to set aside H.15, we believe that specific components of that bill will enhance compliance with Act 46 for many communities around the state, including some of the towns that we represent.

There are three specific components embedded in H.15 that we request the House Education Committee include in your revisions to S.122:

- Sec. 8(c) of H.15 which states: “The State Board may adopt rules designed to implement this act [Act 46] but shall not by rule or otherwise impose additional requirements to those envisioned by this act.” This section addresses the rulemaking that the State Board of Education began to pursue in 2016 that would have raised the bar on the requirements for approval of an Alternative Structure.
- Sec. 1(c)(6) of H.15 which states: “The combined average daily membership, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4001(1), of all member districts is not less than 500.” This section would allow groups of small districts that otherwise would not be able to meet the numerical requirements of Act 46 to combine using an Alternative Structure.
- While there are different sections of H.15 that deal with the timing of implementation of an Alternative Structure, we ask that the Committee set the deadline for submitting an Alternative Structure proposal to the Secretary and the State Board of Education at six months after the adoption of the final rules governing Alternative Structures. It is necessary for districts to have sufficient time to consider, draft, and submit an Alternative Structure proposal once the rules are finalized and prior to the deadline.

We appreciate your consideration of these proposals as we work to make compliance with Act 46, and the goals of the law, achievable for school districts across Vermont.

Sincerely,

Rep. Janet Ancel

Rep. Bill Botzow

Rep. Annmarie Christensen

Rep. Kimberly Jessup

Rep. Heidi Scheuermann

Rep. John Bartholomew

Rep. Robin Chesnut-Tangerman

Rep. John Gannon

Rep. Jay Hooper

Rep. Charlie Kimbell

Rep. Laura Sibia

Rep. Chip Conquest

Rep. Tim Briglin

Rep. Betsy Dunn

Rep. Jim Masland

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Rep. Susan Buckholz

Rep. David Deen

Rep. Sandy Haas

Rep. Ben Jickling

Rep. Gary Nolan

Rep. David Yacovone

Rep. Mike Mrowicki

Rep. Cynthia Browning

Rep. Mary Hooper

Rep. Carolyn Partridge

Rep. David Ainsworth

Rep. Mollie Burke

Rep. Robert Frenier

Rep. Matt Hill

Rep. Brian Keefe

Rep. Dan Noyes