

1 H.518

2 Representative Sibilias of Dover moves that the bill be amended by striking
3 out Sec. E.500.1 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

4 Sec. E.500.1 PREK TO 12 EDUCATIONAL FUNDING AND SPENDING
5 STUDY COMMITTEE

6 (a) Creation. There is created the PreK–12 Educational Funding and
7 Spending Study Committee.

8 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following
9 11 members:

10 (1) one member from each of the following committees, selected by the
11 Speaker of the House: the House Committees on Education and on Ways and
12 Means;

13 (2) one member from each of the following committees, selected by the
14 President Pro Tempore of the Senate: the Senate Committees on Education
15 and on Finance;

16 (3) two members of the public, one from a rural community and one
17 from an urban community, selected by the Speaker of the House;

18 (4) the Secretary of Education or designee, who shall act as the Chair;

19 (5) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;

20 (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association
21 or designee;

1 (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or
2 designee; and

3 (8) the Executive Director of Vermont-NEA or designee.

4 (c) Powers and duties.

5 (1) The Committee shall identify the major cost drivers in school
6 districts and recommend legislative proposals to slow the growth in these areas
7 of spending. They shall also report on how these changes would affect the
8 equity and quality of educational opportunities for all Vermont students.

9 (2) The Committee shall consider and make legislative proposals on the
10 criteria used for determining weighted long-term membership of a school
11 district under 16 V.S.A. § 4010, including the following:

12 (A) the relationship between each of the current weighting factors
13 and the quality and equity of educational opportunities for students;

14 (B) whether any of the weighting factors, including the weighting
15 factors for students from economically deprived backgrounds and for students
16 for whom English is not the primary language, should be modified, and if so,
17 how the weighting factors should be modified and if the modification would
18 further the quality and equity of educational opportunities for students; and

19 (C) whether to add any weighting factors and, if so, why the
20 weighting factor should be added and if the weighting factor would further the
21 quality and equity of educational opportunities for students.

1 (3) The Committee may propose legislation to add a new school district
2 population density weighting factor to the existing weighting factors based on
3 input and recommendations from at least three educational institutions
4 conducting research in this area. The proposal, if made, shall include the
5 rationale for including the additional factor, a summary of the research on
6 which the proposal is made, and if the weighting factor would further the
7 quality and equity of educational opportunities for students.

8 (4) In addition to considering and making recommendations on the
9 criteria used for determining weighted long-term membership of a school
10 district under subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, the Committee may
11 consider and make recommendations for legislation on other funding methods
12 that would further the quality and equity of educational opportunities for
13 students.

14 (5) In developing legislative proposals under this subsection, the
15 Committee shall review the studies and reports to date and consult with groups
16 and individuals with relevant expertise.

17 (6) The Committee shall recommend a process for the annual review of
18 the factors used to determine the weighted long-term membership of school
19 districts and their relationship to the quality and equity of educational
20 opportunities for students. The process recommended by the Committee shall
21 ensure that the results of this annual review are made available to the

1 Commissioner of Taxes by such time as necessary in order for the
2 Commissioner to consider the results in connection with his or her
3 recommendation to the General Assembly under 32 V.S.A. § 5402b.

4 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the assistance of the Joint Fiscal
5 Office and the Office of Legislative Council. The administrative assistance for
6 the Committee shall be provided by the Office of Legislative Council.

7 (e) Meetings.

8 (1) The Chair shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or
9 before July 1, 2017.

10 (2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

11 (3) The Committee shall cease to exist on December 2, 2017.

12 (f)(1) Reimbursement. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of
13 the General Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled
14 to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A.
15 § 406 for no more than six meetings.

16 (2) Other members of the Committee who are not employees of the State
17 of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their
18 attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of
19 expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than six meetings.

20 (g) On or before December 1, 2017, the Committee shall submit its
21 proposals to the General Assembly in the form of legislation ready for

- 1 introduction together with other recommendations and findings required under
- 2 this section.