1	S.46
2	Introduced by Senators Collamore, Flory, and Mullin
3	Referred to Committee on
4	Date:
5	Subject: Taxation; statewide education tax; education spending
6	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to:
7	(1) Bring teachers' health care contributions into line with those of most
8	State and private employees in the State by requiring all new teachers'
9	contracts to include a provision bringing the health care premium cost share to
10	at least 20 percent.
11	(2) Provide Education Fund resources for all educational endeavors, from
12	prekindergarten to higher education, by level funding school district spending
13	at fiscal year 2017 levels for one year. Districts will be able to raise additional
14	funds through a local assessment to make up any shortfall.
15	(3) Create an incentive for independent schools to also hold down school
16	spending by level funding tuition levels at fiscal year 2017 levels.

17

An act relating to reducing Education Fund costs for fiscal year 2018

1	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
2	* * * Intent * * *
3	Sec. 1. INTENT
4	(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to:
5	(1) Bring teachers' health care contributions into line with those of most
6	State and private employees in the State by requiring all new teachers'
7	contracts to include provisions bringing the health care premium cost share to
8	at least 20 percent.
9	(2) Provide Education Fund resources for all educational endeavors,
10	from prekindergarten to higher education, by level funding school district
11	education spending at fiscal year 2017 levels for one year. Districts will be
12	able to raise additional funds through a local assessment.
13	(3) Create an incentive for independent schools to also hold down
14	school spending, by level funding tuition levels at fiscal year 2017 levels.
15	* * * Education Health Care * * *
16	Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 2004 is amended to read:
17	§ 2004. AGENDA
18	(a) The school board, through its negotiations council, shall, upon request,
19	negotiate with representatives of the teachers' or administrators' organization
20	negotiations council on matters of salary, related economic conditions of
21	employment, the manner in which it will enforce an employee's obligation to

1	pay the agency service fee, procedures for processing complaints and
2	grievances relating to employment, and any mutually agreed upon matters not
3	in conflict with the statutes and laws of the State of Vermont.
4	(b) To the extent that any negotiated agreement relates to the provision of
5	health insurance or other health benefits, the agreement shall require a teacher
6	or administrator to pay at least 20 percent of his or her monthly premium
7	amount.
8	Sec. 3. 21 V.S.A. § 1725(a) is amended to read:
9	(a)(1) For the purpose of collective bargaining, the representatives of the
10	municipal employer and the bargaining unit shall meet at any reasonable time
11	and shall bargain in good faith with respect to wages, hours, and conditions of
12	employment, and shall execute a written contract incorporating any agreement
13	reached; provided, however, neither party shall be compelled to agree to a
14	proposal nor to make a concession, nor to bargain over any issue of managerial
15	prerogative.
16	(2) For municipal employees who are employed by a school district,
17	supervisory district, or supervisory union, to the extent that the contract relates
18	to the provision of health insurance or other health benefits, the contract shall
19	require the employee to pay at least 20 percent of his or her monthly premium
20	amount.

1	* * * District Spending * * *
2	Sec. 4. LEVEL FUNDING OF DISTRICT EDUCATION SPENDING FOR
3	FISCAL YEAR 2018
4	(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year 2018 only,
5	the amount of any payments to support education spending from the State to
6	any individual school district under 16 V.S.A. §§ 4011 and 4028(a) shall not
7	exceed the amount of the payments made to the district under those provisions
8	in fiscal year 2017. If in fiscal year 2018 a district exists as a result of the
9	merger process provided for in 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, then for the
10	purpose of calculating education spending in fiscal year 2017 under this
11	section, the Agency of Education shall use the sum of the education spending
12	of the constituent districts in fiscal year 2017.
13	(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a district's budgeted
14	educational spending for fiscal year 2018 exceeds the amount of payments
15	provided under subsection (a) of this section, then the towns within each
16	district shall impose an education assessment to provide for the difference
17	between the payments under subsection (a) and the district's budgeted
18	education spending. The educational assessment levied under this subsection
19	shall be calculated and collected as an addition to the municipal taxes levied
20	under 24 V.S.A. chapter 51. The contribution of each town within a district to
21	the entire amount raised under this subsection shall be in the same proportion

1	that the town's municipal grand list is to the sum of the municipal grand lists
2	within the district.
3	(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law:
4	(1) the towns shall remit the proceeds of the assessment in subsection
5	(b) of this section to the school district within 30 days of its collection;
6	(2) the educational assessment raised in subsection (b) of this section
7	shall not be considered "education spending," as that term is used in 16 V.S.A.
8	<u>§ 4001(6);</u>
9	(3) tuition paid to independent schools in fiscal year 2018 shall not
10	exceed rates established for fiscal year 2017;
11	(4) a special school budget vote date is set for Tuesday, May 23, 2017
12	for school districts to vote a budget for fiscal year 2018, given the changes
13	made in this act.
14	* * * Effective Date * * *
15	Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE
16	This act shall take effect on passage and Secs. 2 and 3 (education health
17	care) shall apply to all contract negotiations that begin on or after the effective
18	date of this act.