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S.122

Senator Baruth moves that the bill be amended:

First: By striking out Sec. 7 in its entirety and adding a new Sec. 7 in lieu thereof to read:

Sec. 7 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, Sec. 9 is amended to read:

Sec. 9. SELF-EVALUATION, MEETINGS, AND PROPOSAL

(a) ~~On~~ Subject to subsection (b) of this section, on or before November 30, 2017, the board of each school district in the State that:

(1) has a governance structure different from the preferred structure identified in Sec. 5(b) of this act (Education District), or that does not expect to become or will not become an Education District on or before July 1, 2019; or

(2) does not qualify for an exemption under Sec. 10(c) of this act, shall perform each of the following actions.

~~(1)(A)~~ (A) Self-evaluation. The board shall evaluate its current ability to meet or exceed each of the goals set forth in Sec. 2 of this act.

~~(2)(B)~~ (B) Meetings.

~~(A)(i)~~ (i) The board shall meet with the boards of one or more other districts, including those representing districts that have similar patterns of school operation and tuition payment, to discuss ways to promote improvement throughout the region in connection with the goals set forth in Sec. 2 of this act.

1           ~~(B)~~(ii) The districts do not need to be contiguous and do not need to  
2 be within the same supervisory union.

3           ~~(3)~~(C) Proposal. The board of the district, solely on behalf of its own  
4 district or jointly with the boards of other districts, shall submit a proposal to  
5 the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education in which the  
6 district:

7           ~~(A)~~(i) proposes to retain its current governance structure, to work  
8 with other districts to form a different governance structure, or to enter into  
9 another model of joint activity;

10           ~~(B)~~(ii) demonstrates, through reference to enrollment projections,  
11 student-to-staff ratios, the comprehensive data collected pursuant to 16 V.S.A.  
12 § 165, and otherwise, how the proposal in subdivision ~~(A)~~(i) of this  
13 subdivision ~~(3)~~(C) supports the district's or districts' ability to meet or exceed  
14 each of the goals set forth in Sec. 2 of this act; ~~and~~

15           ~~(C)~~(iii) identifies detailed actions it proposes to take to continue to  
16 improve its performance in connection with each of the goals set forth in Sec. 2  
17 of this act; and

18           (iv) describes its history of merger, consolidation, or other models  
19 of joint activity with other school districts before the enactment of this act, and  
20 its consideration of merger, consolidation, or other models of joint activity  
21 with other school districts on or after the enactment of this act.

1        (b) The date by which a qualifying district must take the actions required  
2        by subsection (a) of this section is extended from November 30, 2017 to  
3        January 31, 2018. A qualifying district is a district that:

4                (1) proposed a school district consolidation plan under 2010 Acts and  
5        Resolves No. 153, as amended, or 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156, as  
6        amended, which was rejected by voters:

7                (2) is a member of a study committee formed under 16 V.S.A. § 706 that  
8        provides to the Secretary a declaration that another school district wants to join  
9        the district’s study committee, signed by each member of the study committee  
10       and the district that proposes to join the study committee; or

11                (3) is a member of a supervisory union that, on or after July 1, 2010,  
12       combined with another supervisory union.

13        Second: By striking out Sec. 8 in its entirety and adding a new Sec. 8 in  
14        lieu thereof to read:

15        Sec. 8. TIME EXTENSION FOR VOTE OF ELECTORATE

16        Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the date by which a  
17        qualifying district must receive final approval from the electorate for its merger  
18        proposal is extended from July 1, 2017 to November 30, 2017. A qualifying  
19        district is a district that:

1           (1) proposed a school district consolidation plan under 2010 Acts and  
2           Resolves No. 153, as amended, or 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156, as  
3           amended, which was rejected by voters;

4           (2) is a member of a study committee formed under 16 V.S.A. § 706 that  
5           provides to the Secretary a declaration that another school district wants to join  
6           the district’s study committee, signed by each member of the study committee  
7           and the district that proposes to join the study committee; or

8           (3) is a member of a supervisory union that, on or after July 1, 2010,  
9           combined with another supervisory union.

10          Third: By striking out Sec. 11 in its entirety and adding a new Sec. 11 in  
11          lieu thereof to read:

12          Sec. 11. 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, Sec. 10 is amended to read:

13                 Sec. 10. TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE

14                         STRUCTURES; PROPOSAL; FINAL PLAN

15                                 \* \* \*

16           (d)(1) The Secretary of Education shall make a supplemental Transitional  
17           Facilitation Grant of \$10,000.00 to a school district that:

18                         (A) has received or is eligible to receive tax incentives under 2010  
19           Acts and Resolves No. 153, 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156, or 2015 Acts  
20           and Resolves No. 46, each as amended (a qualifying school district); and

1           (B) either on its own initiative or at the request of the State Board,  
2 agrees by vote of its electorate to merge with another school district (a  
3 qualifying merger).

4           (2) A qualifying district shall use the grant funding to defray the cost of  
5 integration. The Secretary shall pay the grant amount to a qualifying school  
6 district for each qualifying merger with a school district even if multiple  
7 qualifying mergers are effective on the same date. The Secretary shall pay the  
8 grant amount not later than 30 days after all required approvals are obtained.

9           (3) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in 16 V.S.A. § 4025,  
10 the Secretary of Education shall pay the supplemental Transition Facilitation  
11 Grant from the Education Fund.

12           (4) The supplemental Transition Facilitation Grant shall be available for  
13 a qualifying merger initiated by a qualifying school district only if the merger  
14 is scheduled to be effective on or before November 30, 2018.