

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 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 § 4001(6);

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.