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H.39

Introduced by Representatives Scheuermann of Stowe, Batchelor of Derby,  
Briglin of Thetford, Browning of Arlington, Burditt of West  
Rutland, Coffey of Guilford, Gamache of Swanton, Hashim of  
Dummerston, Higley of Lowell, Jessup of Middlesex, LaClair  
of Barre Town, Martel of Waterford, McFaun of Barre Town,  
Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Page of  
Newport City, Partridge of Windham, Patt of Worcester, Savage  
of Swanton, Smith of Derby, Strong of Albany, Szott of  
Barnard, Troiano of Stannard, and Yacovone of Morristown

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; school district mergers; State Board of Education order to  
merge; extension of deadline

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to extend the  
deadline for school district mergers ordered by the State Board of Education to  
July 1, 2020.

18 An act relating to the extension of the deadline of school district mergers  
19 required by the State Board of Education

1 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

2 Sec. 1. SCHOOL DISTRICT MERGERS; STATE BOARD OF  
3 EDUCATION ORDER

4 Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary of 2010 Acts and Resolves  
5 No. 153, 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156, and 2015 Acts and Resolves No.  
6 46, each as amended:

7 (1) Merger deadline extension.

8 (A) Mergers into a newly formed district. A school district that is  
9 formed by order of the State Board of Education under 2015 Acts and Resolves  
10 No. 46, Sec. 10, as amended, shall become operational on July 1, 2020. The  
11 State Board of Education shall amend the default Articles of Agreement  
12 included with the State Board's order to merge to accommodate this time  
13 frame.

14 (B) Mergers into an existing district. The merger of a school district  
15 into an existing district that is required by order of the State Board of  
16 Education under 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, Sec. 10, as amended, shall be  
17 effective on July 1, 2020; provided that a majority of the voters of the existing  
18 district present and voting at an annual or special meeting warned for the  
19 purpose approve the addition of that district to the existing district.

20 (2) Operations until merger. Until the merger under subdivision (1) of  
21 this section becomes operational or takes effect, each school district that will

1 merge shall continue to operate and shall take such action as is necessary or  
2 required by law to effect the merger.

3 (3) Draft Articles of Agreement. The school districts that are required  
4 by the State Board order to merge into a newly formed district shall, on or  
5 before July 1, 2019, form a committee with members appointed in the same  
6 manner and number as required for a study committee under 16 V.S.A.  
7 chapter 11 that shall draft Articles of Agreement for the newly formed district.  
8 On or before October 31, 2019, the committee shall hold at least one public  
9 hearing to consider and take comments on the draft Articles of Agreement.

10 (4) Approval of Articles of Agreement. The committee's draft Articles  
11 of Agreement shall be submitted for approval by the voters of each school  
12 district that is required by the State Board order to merge into a newly formed  
13 district at an annual or special meeting warned for the purpose. If, on or before  
14 March 31, 2020, the committee's draft Articles of Agreement are not approved  
15 by a majority of the voters present and voting at a meeting warned for the  
16 purpose of each school district that is required by the State Board order to  
17 merge into the newly formed district, then the provisions in the State Board's  
18 default Articles of Agreement shall apply to the newly formed district.

19 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on passage.