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H.665

Introduced by Representatives Scheuermann of Stowe, Batchelor of Derby,  
Strong of Albany, and Toof of St. Albans Town

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; flexible pathways; proficiency-based learning and  
proficiency-based graduation

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to permit  
schools to choose whether to offer proficiency-based learning and proficiency-  
based graduation.

An act relating to making proficiency-based learning and proficiency-based  
graduation voluntary

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

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

(a) The Flexible Pathways Initiative was enacted in 2013 to:

(1) encourage and support the creativity of school districts as they  
develop and expand high-quality educational experiences;

1           (2) promote opportunities for Vermont students to achieve  
2           postsecondary readiness through high-quality educational experiences that  
3           acknowledge individual goals, learning styles, and abilities; and

4           (3) increase the rates of secondary school completion and  
5           postsecondary continuation in Vermont.

6           (b) Proficiency-based learning and proficiency-based graduation was  
7           not part of the Flexible Pathways Initiative and is not required by  
8           legislation. The State Board of Education amended its rules on education  
9           quality standards in 2014 to include these requirements.

10           (c) The imposition proficiency-based learning and proficiency-based  
11           graduation requirements on school districts is a significant policy change  
12           that should have been discussed, debated, and determined by the General  
13           Assembly.

14       Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 941 is amended to read:

15       § 941. FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS INITIATIVE

16                               \* \* \*

17       (c) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as:

18           (1) discouraging or limiting the authority of any school district to  
19       develop or continue to provide educational opportunities for its students that  
20       are otherwise permitted, including the provision of Advanced Placement  
21       courses; or

