1	H.665
2	Introduced by Representatives Scheuermann of Stowe, Batchelor of Derby,
3	Strong of Albany, and Toof of St. Albans Town
4	Referred to Committee on
5	Date:
6	Subject: Education; flexible pathways; proficiency-based learning and
7	proficiency-based graduation
8	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to permit
9	schools to choose whether to offer proficiency-based learning and proficiency-
10	based graduation.
11 12	An act relating to making proficiency-based learning and proficiency-based graduation voluntary
13	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
14	
15	Sec. 1. FINDINGS
16	(a) The Flexible Pathways Initiative was enacted in 2013 to:
17	(1) encourage and support the creativity of school districts as they
18	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

1	(2) requiring a school to offer proficiency-based learning or proficiency-
2	based graduation, which refers to systems of instruction, assessment, grading,
3	and academic reporting that are based on students demonstrating mastery of
4	the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn before they progress to the
5	next lesson, get promoted to the next grade level, or receive a diploma.
5	* * *
7	Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE
3	This act shall take effect on passage.