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S.50

Introduced by Senators Brock, Balint, Benning, Bray, McCormack, Parent,  
Pollina, Rodgers, Starr, Westman, and White

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.

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

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

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

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary of 2010 Acts and Resolves  
No. 153, 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156, and 2015 Acts and Resolves No.  
46, each as amended:  
(1) Merger deadline extension.

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

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

13           (2) Operations until merger. Until the merger under subdivision (1) of  
14           this section becomes operational or takes effect, each school district that will  
15           merge shall continue to operate and shall take such action as is necessary or  
16           required by law to effect the merger.

17           (3) Draft Articles of Agreement. The school districts that are required  
18           by the State Board order to merge into a newly formed district shall, on or  
19           before July 1, 2019, form a committee with members appointed in the same  
20           manner and number as required for a study committee under 16 V.S.A.  
21           chapter 11 that shall draft Articles of Agreement for the newly formed district.

1 On or before October 31, 2019, the committee shall hold at least one public  
2 hearing to consider and take comments on the draft Articles of Agreement.

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

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on passage.