

# House Calendar

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Wednesday, February 06, 2019

29th DAY OF THE BIENNIAL SESSION

House Convenes at 1:00 P.M.

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**ACTION CALENDAR**

**Action Postponed Until February 6, 2019**

**Adverse**

**H. 39**

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

Reported adversely by **Rep. Webb of Shelburne** for the Committee on Education.

(Committee Vote: 7-4-0 )

**Amendment to be offered by Rep. Scheuermann of Stowe to H. 39**

That the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

(1) Merger deadline extension. The deadline for school district mergers ordered by the State Board of Education under 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, Sec. 10, as amended, shall be on July 1, 2019 or July 1, 2020.

(A) For a school district that is required to merge into an existing district, if the school board of the merging district votes or has voted, by majority vote of members representing a quorum, in favor of merging on July 1, 2019, then the merger shall take effect on that date, subject to approval by the existing district to accept the merging district where required by the State Board order.

(B) For school districts that are required to merge into a newly formed district, if the school board of each merging district votes or has voted, by majority vote of members representing a quorum, in favor of merging on July 1, 2019, then the merger shall take effect on that date.

(2) Default Articles of Agreement. On or before March 15, 2019, the State Board of Education shall amend and reissue the default Articles of Agreement included with the State Board's order to merge to accommodate the merger deadline extension in this section. The deadline for approval of the

draft Articles of Agreement under Sec. 10(d)(2) of 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, as amended, shall be extended to March 31, 2020.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

**Amendment to be offered by Reps. Conlon of Cornwall, Cupoli of Rutland City and Webb of Shelburne to H. 39**

That the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) “Existing district” means a union school district created by vote of the electorate on or after July 1, 2015 into which a merging district is ordered by the State Board Order to merge, whether or not that merger is conditioned upon acceptance by the existing district of the merging district.

(2) “Forming district” means a school district that is ordered by the State Board Order to merge with other forming districts to create a newly formed district.

(3) “Merging district” means a school district that is ordered by the State Board Order to merge into an existing district.

(4) “Newly formed district” means a union school district that is formed by the State Board Order by merging forming districts.

(5) “State Board Order” means the section of the State Board Report entitled “State Board of Education’s ‘order merging and realigning districts and supervisory unions where necessary pursuant to Act 46, Sec. 10(b).’”

(6) “State Board Report” means the “Final Report of the Decisions and Order on Statewide School District Merger Decisions Pursuant to Act 46, Sections 8(b) and 10” issued by the State Board of Education dated November 28, 2018.

(7) “Study committee” means a study committee formed under 16 V.S.A. chapter 11.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

(1) Deadline for mergers.

(A) A newly formed district shall become operational on July 1, 2019 if each forming district was a member of a study committee that, on or after July 1, 2015 and on or before November 30, 2018, presented a proposal to the voters of each forming district to merge into a new union district.

(B) A newly formed district shall become operational on July 1, 2020 if each forming district was not a member of a study committee that, on or after July 1, 2015 and on or before November 30, 2018, presented a proposal to the voters of each forming district to merge into a new union district.

(C) The operational date of the merger of a merging district into an existing district that is not a modified unified union school district shall be July 1, 2020.

(D) The operational date of the merger of a merging district into an existing district that is a modified unified union school district, where, on or before November 30, 2018, the merger was accepted by the existing district, shall be July 1, 2019.

(E)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (ii) of this subdivision (E), the operational date of the merger of a merging district into an existing district that is a modified unified union school district, where the merger is conditioned by the State Board Order upon the acceptance by the existing district of the merging district, shall be either July 1, 2019 or July 1, 2020. The school board of the existing district shall determine, by majority vote of members representing a quorum, the proposed date of merger, and shall submit to voters of the existing district a proposal to approve the admission of the merging district as a member of the existing district as of that date.

(ii) If the board of an existing district submitted a proposal to its voters on or after November 1, 2018 and on or before March 31, 2019 to approve admission of the merging district and the proposal included an operational date of July 1, 2019, then no further action by the board or the voters is required under this subdivision (E).

(2) Default Articles. For any newly formed district that has an operational deadline of July 1, 2020 under subdivision (1)(B) of this subsection, the default articles of agreement issued with the State Board Report are amended as follows:

(A) by striking out the date “July 1, 2019” wherever it appears and inserting in lieu thereof the date “July 1, 2020”; and

(B) by striking out the date “February 28, 2019” in Article 9(D)(ii)(b) and Article 14 and inserting in lieu thereof the date “July 1, 2019”.

(3) Authority to borrow. If the first budget of a newly formed district has not been approved by voters on or before June 30 for the next fiscal year, the school board may borrow funds necessary to enable it to operate the schools on a budget of up to 87 percent of the cumulative budget amount of the most recently approved school budgets of the forming districts. If the school board borrows money under this section, it shall determine how all funds shall be expended.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Action Under Rule 52**

**J.R.S. 11**

Joint resolution establishing a procedure for the conduct of the election of UVM trustees by plurality vote by the General Assembly in 2019

**(For text see House Journal February 5, 2019)**

**Public Hearings**

Public Hearing on H.57-An Act relating to preserving the right to abortion. February 6, 2019, 4:30-6:30 PM, House Chamber. Held by House Committees on Human Services and Judiciary.

**PUBLIC AND ADVOCATE HEARINGS & MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**On the FY2020 Governor's Recommended State Budget**

Joint Community-Based Public Hearings will be held on Monday, February 25, 2019, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. – The House and Senate Committees on Appropriations are seeking public input on the FY2020 recommended State budget and will hold joint public hearings at 6 locations across the State.

**Morrisville** – People's Academy High School, Auditorium, top of Copley Avenue

**Rutland City** – Rutland Public Schools, Longfellow School Building, Board Room

**St. Johnsbury** – St. Johnsbury House, Main Dining Room, 1207 Main Street

**St. Albans City** – St. Albans City School, Library, 29 Bellows Street

**Winooski** – Community College of Vermont, Room 108, 1 Abenaki Way

**Springfield** – Springfield Town Hall, 96 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Conference Room (Selectmen’s Hall) **5:30-6:30 p.m.**

**House Committee on Appropriations (only)**

**Advocate Hearings** will be held on **Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.** in room 11 of the **State House in Montpelier (AHS Sections only)**. **Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. in room 11 (all NON-AHS Sections)**.

**Members’ Comments** are scheduled for **Friday, February 22, 2019 at 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in room 42 (House Appropriations Committee Room)**

Anyone interested in testifying should come to one of the options above. Time limits on testimony may apply depending on volume of participants. Other than Public Hearings on February 25, all others should sign up in advance with Theresa.

To view a copy of the proposed budget, [click here](#). For more information about the format of any of these events, or to submit written testimony, e-mail Theresa Utton-Jerman at [tutton@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:tutton@leg.state.vt.us) or call 802-828-5767.

**Joint Assembly**

**Thursday, February 21, 2019 10:30 A.M. – House Chamber** - Election of a Sergeant at Arms, of an Adjutant and Inspector General, and of three (3) trustees for the University of Vermont, and Vermont and State Agricultural College.

Candidates for the positions of Sergeant at Arms, Adjutant and Inspector General, and legislative candidates for UVM trustees must notify the Secretary of State **in writing** of their candidacies not later than Thursday, February 14, 2019, by 4:00 P.M., pursuant to the provisions of 2 V.S.A. §12(b). Otherwise their names will not appear on the ballots for these positions.

The following rules shall apply to the conduct of these elections:

First: All nominations for these offices will be presented in alphabetical order prior to voting.

Second: There will be only one nominating speech of not more than three (3) minutes and not more than two seconding speeches of not more than one (1) minute each for each nominee.