

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Date:

3 Subject: Education; COVID-19; school districts; default budgets

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes, due to the  
5 COVID-19 State of Emergency, to establish default school budgets for fiscal  
6 year 2021 for school districts that do not have voter-approved budgets on or  
7 before June 30, 2020, while allowing school districts, instead of using the  
8 default budgets, to seek voter approval of their own budgets after June 30 as  
9 under current law. Default budgets would be level funded from fiscal  
10 year 2020 school district budgets.

11 An act relating to establishing default budgets for school districts due to the  
12 COVID-19 State of Emergency

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

14 Sec. 1. SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS

15 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if the fiscal year  
16 2021 budget of a school district has not been approved by voters on or before  
17 June 30, 2020, the Agency of Education shall authorize an amount of  
18 education spending for that school district equal to the education spending  
19 amount authorized by the district's 2020 fiscal year school budget. School  
20 districts may, after June 30, vote to approve a budget or vote to reconsider or

1 rescind an approved budget in accordance with law, and if the school district  
2 approves a final budget, that budget shall be in lieu of the education spending  
3 approved by the Agency of Education.

4 (b) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), the amount authorized by the  
5 Agency of Education under subsection (a) of this section shall be the  
6 “education spending” of the school district for fiscal year 2021 under  
7 16 V.S.A. chapter 133, unless or until the school district passes a final budget.

8 (c) The school board of the school district shall determine how funds shall  
9 be expended under this section. In addition, the school board shall have the  
10 authority to expend any other funds received from other sources, including  
11 endowments, parental fundraising, federal funds, nongovernmental grants, or  
12 other State funds such as special education funds paid under 16 V.S.A.  
13 chapter 101.

14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on passage.