

**Side-by-Side
Default Budget Language
Jim DesMarais
4/27/20**

HEC	SEC
<p>Subject: Education; COVID-19; school districts; fiscal year 2021 education spending</p> <p>Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes, due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, to establish education spending for fiscal year 2021 for school districts that do not have voter-approved budgets on or before June 30, 2020. A school district’s education spending would be the same amount as the education spending in the school district’s most recently warned budget. However, a school district may obtain voter approval of its own budget after June 30 as under current law, in which case the amount of education spending in the voter approved budget shall be in lieu of the education spending under this act.</p>	<p>Subject: Education; COVID-19; school districts; default budgets</p> <p>Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes, due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, to establish default school budgets for fiscal year 2021 for school districts that do not have voter-approved budgets on or before June 30, 2020, while allowing school districts, instead of using the default budgets, to seek voter approval of their own budgets after June 30 as under current law. Default budgets would be level funded from fiscal year 2020 school district budgets.</p> <p>[Note that the SEC version uses the term “default budgets,” which is not as precise as the term “education spending” which is a</p>

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<p>An act relating to establishing fiscal year 2021 education spending for school districts due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency</p> <p>It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:</p> <p>Sec. 1. SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2021 EDUCATION SPENDING</p> <p><u>(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if the fiscal year 2021 budget of a school district has not been approved by voters on or before June 30, 2020, the Agency of Education shall authorize an amount of education spending for that school district equal to the amount of education spending under the school district’s proposed fiscal year 2021 budget that</u></p>	<p>subset of the budget. I have corrected for this in the HEC version.]</p> <p>An act relating to establishing default budgets for school districts due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency</p> <p>It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:</p> <p>Sec. 1. SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS</p> <p><u>(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if the fiscal year 2021 budget of a school district has not been approved by voters on or before June 30, 2020, the Agency of Education shall authorize an amount of education spending for that school district equal to the education spending amount authorized by the district’s 2020 fiscal year school budget.</u></p>

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<p><u>was most recently warned; provided that, if the school board warned a fiscal year 2021 budget that was defeated, the school board shall, on or before June 30, 2020, warn another budget that is less than the amount of the budget that was defeated.</u> <u>School districts may, after June 30, vote to approve a budget or vote to reconsider or rescind an approved budget in accordance with law, and if the school district approves a final budget, the amount of education spending in that budget shall be in lieu of the education spending authorized by the Agency of Education.</u></p> <p><u>(b) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), the amount authorized by the Agency of Education under subsection (a) of this section shall be the “education spending” of the school district for fiscal year 2021 under 16 V.S.A. chapter 133, unless or until the school district passes a final budget.</u></p> <p><u>(c) The school board of the school district shall determine how funds shall be expended under this section. In addition, the</u></p>	<p><u>School districts may, after June 30, vote to approve a budget or vote to reconsider or rescind an approved budget in accordance with law, and if the school district approves a final budget, that budget shall be in lieu of the education spending approved by the Agency of Education.</u></p> <p><u>(b) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), the amount authorized by the Agency of Education under subsection (a) of this section shall be the “education spending” of the school district for fiscal year 2021 under 16 V.S.A. chapter 133, unless or until the school district passes a final budget.</u></p> <p><u>(c) The school board of the school district shall determine how funds shall be expended under this section. In addition, the</u></p>

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<p><u>school board shall have the authority to expend any other funds received from other sources, including endowments, parental fundraising, federal funds, nongovernmental grants, or other State funds such as special education funds paid under 16 V.S.A. chapter 101.</u></p> <p>Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE</p> <p><u>This act shall take effect on passage.</u></p>	<p><u>school board shall have the authority to expend any other funds received from other sources, including endowments, parental fundraising, federal funds, nongovernmental grants, or other State funds such as special education funds paid under 16 V.S.A. chapter 101.</u></p> <p>Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE</p> <p><u>This act shall take effect on passage.</u></p>