

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Date:

3 Subject: Education; COVID-19; school districts; fiscal year 2021 education
4 spending

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes, due to the
6 COVID-19 state of emergency, to establish education spending for fiscal
7 year 2021 for school districts that do not have voter-approved budgets on or
8 before June 30, 2020. A school district's education spending would be the
9 same amount as the education spending in the school district's most recently
10 warned budget. However, a school district may obtain voter approval of its
11 own budget after June 30 as under current law, in which case the amount of
12 education spending in the voter approved budget shall be in lieu of the
13 education spending under this act.

14 An act relating to establishing fiscal year 2021 education spending for
15 school districts due to the COVID-19 state of emergency

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

17 Sec. 1. SCHOOL DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2021 EDUCATION

18 SPENDING

19 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if the fiscal year
20 2021 budget of a school district has not been approved by voters on or before

1 June 30, 2020, the Agency of Education shall authorize an amount of
2 education spending for that school district equal to the amount of education
3 spending under the school district’s proposed fiscal year 2021 budget that was
4 most recently warned, provided that, if the school board warned a fiscal
5 year 2021 budget that was defeated, the school board shall, on or before
6 June 30, 2020, warn another budget that is less than the amount of the budget
7 that was defeated. School districts may, after June 30, vote to approve a
8 budget or vote to reconsider or rescind an approved budget in accordance with
9 law, and if the school district approves a final budget, the amount of education
10 spending in that budget shall be in lieu of the education spending authorized by
11 the Agency of Education.

12 (b) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4001(6), the amount authorized by the
13 Agency of Education under subsection (a) of this section shall be the
14 “education spending” of the school district for fiscal year 2021 under
15 16 V.S.A. chapter 133, unless or until the school district passes a final budget.

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

- 1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 2 This act shall take effect on passage.