

**Side-by-Side
Articles of Agreement
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2/1/19**

Act 49 (2017)	H.39 (alternative)
<p>Sec. 8. 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, Sec. 10 is amended to read:</p> <p>Sec. 10. TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES; PROPOSAL; FINAL PLAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p><u>(d) The statewide plan required by subsection (b) of this section shall include default Articles of Agreement to be used by all new unified union school districts created under the plan unless and until new or amended articles are approved.</u></p> <p><u>(1) After the State Board of Education issues the statewide plan under subsection (b) of this section, districts subject to merger shall have 90 days to form a committee with members appointed in the same manner and number as required for a study committee under 16 V.S.A. chapter 11, and which shall draft Articles of Agreement for the new district. During this period, the committee shall hold at least one public hearing</u></p>	<p>Sec. 1. SCHOOL DISTRICT MERGERS; STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ORDER</p> <p><u>Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:</u></p> <p><u>(3) Draft Articles of Agreement. The school districts that are required by the State Board order to merge into a newly formed district shall, on or before July 1, 2019, form a committee with members appointed in the same manner and number as required for a study committee under 16 V.S.A. chapter 11 that shall draft Articles of Agreement for the newly formed district. On or before October 31, 2019, the committee shall hold at least</u></p>

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<p>to consider and take comments on the draft Articles of Agreement.</p> <p>(2) If the committee’s draft Articles of Agreement are not approved within the 90-day period, then the provisions in the State Board’s default Articles of Agreement included in the statewide plan shall apply to the new district.</p> <p>(3) On or before January 15, 2018, the Vermont School Boards Association and the Vermont Superintendents Association, in consultation with the Agency of Education, shall develop and present to the House and Senate Committees on Education proposed legislation that:</p> <p>(A) addresses which of the specific articles developed under subdivision (1) of this subsection must or should be approved only by the electorate and which can or should be approved by the committee created in that subdivision or another legal body; and</p> <p>(B) amends 16 V.S.A. § 706n, which currently requires all later amendments to articles to be approved by either the electorate or the unified board based upon whether the provision was included in the Warning for the original merger vote.</p>	<p>one public hearing to consider and take comments on the draft Articles of Agreement.</p> <p>(4) Approval of Articles of Agreement. The committee’s draft Articles of Agreement shall be submitted for approval by the voters of each school district that is required by the State Board order to merge into a newly formed district at an annual or special meeting warned for the purpose. If, on or before March 31, 2020, the committee’s draft Articles of Agreement are not approved by a majority of the voters present and voting at a meeting warned for the purpose of each school district that is required by the State Board order to merge into the newly formed district, then the provisions in the State Board’s default Articles of Agreement shall apply to the newly formed district.</p>