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H.62

Introduced by Representative Ancel of Calais

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; school district consolidation; school closure

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit a school district from closing a school without approval by the voters residing in the town in which the school is located if the school was conveyed to the school district as a result of school district consolidation.

An act relating to protecting towns' rights to approve the closure of a school

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

Sec. 1. SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION; CLOSURE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

(a) A school district shall not cease to operate a school in a school building conveyed to it as a result of school district consolidation under 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156, and 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, each as amended, unless first approved by the voters residing in the town in which the school is located.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section shall apply regardless of whether the consolidation was voluntary or involuntary.

1 (c) Subsection (a) of this section shall apply notwithstanding any provision
2 of law to the contrary or the Default Articles of Agreement issued by the State
3 Board of Education with its “Final Report of the Decisions and Order on
4 Statewide School District Merger Decisions Pursuant to Act 46, Sections 8(b)
5 and 10.” The Default Articles of Agreement shall be deemed amended to be
6 consistent with this act.

7 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on passage.