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Subject: [External] RE: S.254; updated draft attached

Good morning Chair Sirotkin and thank you for the opportunity to comment on now revised S254. On behalf of the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA), I advise that it continues to respectfully oppose passage of this Bill for the following reasons:

1. The existing VLRB process for dealing with representation petitions has been fair for both Petitioner and Respondent. Through the process employed first by its Executive Director and then (if necessary) by the Board, all frivolous objections and then all serious objections concerning both the proposed unit's appropriateness and individual/position inclusion or exclusion from voting/the proposed unit are resolved in a timely manner before the election is held. VSBA sees no compelling reason to change the existing VLRB process.
2. The timelines in the revised Bill (2 days, 4 days, 8 days) are all most unworkable for entities such as school districts and their elected, volunteer board members to discharge their duties in a responsible manner through information gathering and opportunity for careful consideration before positions are taken. VSBA sees these timelines as a classic "rush to judgment" that make a serious process more disorderly and unfair.
3. The Bill's requirement that questions as to whether a particular individual or position should be included in the proposed bargaining unit be deferred until after the representation election (with separate voting procedure for those of contested) seems both unnecessary and quite disorderly by contrast to the existing VLRB procedure. VSBA sees this change as disruptive and unnecessary.
4. The Bill's limitations with regard to briefing matters is once again a solution in search of a problem from VSBA's perspective. The VLRB currently manages the submission of memorandums and legal briefs in an even handed and fully professional manner for all litigants. Again, it sees no existing need to place such limitations in the law governing the process.

Thank you very much to you Mr. Chairman and Committee members for the opportunity to share VSBA's perspective concerning this proposed legislation. All the very best. Joe

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