

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Subject: Education; COVID-19; miscellaneous

3 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make

4 miscellaneous changes in education law to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

5 An act relating to making miscellaneous changes in education law to
6 address the COVID-19 pandemic

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

8 Sec. 1. LENGTH OF 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR

9 Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 1071(a), for the 2020–2021 school year,
10 except as provided in subsection (g) of that section (which allows for waivers
11 of these requirements) each public school shall be maintained and operated for:

12 (1) not less than 170 student attendance days; and

13 (2) not less than 10 teacher in-service education days.

14 Sec. 2. ADM ADJUSTMENT; DECLINE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT

15 DUE TO HOME STUDY

16 (a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. §§ 4001(1) and 4010(b), for the 2020–2021
17 school year, the Secretary of Education shall determine the average daily
18 membership (ADM) for each school district at a count of not less than the
19 district’s 2019–2020 school year ADM.

1 (b) As used in this section, “school district” means a school district, as
2 defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(11), or a regional career technical center school
3 district, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 1571.

4 Sec. 3. 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR; AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

5 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2680(a) and 16 V.S.A.
6 § 711e that require the voters of a school district to vote to apply the provisions
7 of the Australian ballot system to its annual meeting or special meetings, any
8 school district may apply the Australian ballot system to any or all of its annual
9 meeting and special meetings held in the 2020–2021 school year by vote of its
10 school board.

11 (b) The Secretary of State may waive statutory deadlines or other statutory
12 provisions, or provisions set forth in a school district’s articles of agreement,
13 related to a municipal election as necessary in order for a municipality to apply
14 the Australian ballot system in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.
15 This waiver authority applies to statutory provisions set forth in a municipal
16 charter or provisions set forth in a school district’s articles of agreement if the
17 waiver is requested by that municipality.

18 (c) As used in this section, “school district” means a school district, as
19 defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11(11), or a regional career technical center school
20 district, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 1571.

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1 Sec. 4. 2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR; WAIVER OF ONLINE TEACHING
2 ENDORSEMENT

3 Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 1694, for the 2020–2021 school year, the
4 Standards Board for Professional Educators (SBPE) shall waive its
5 requirement for a teacher to hold an endorsement for online teaching in order
6 to teach online or implement remote learning.

7 Sec. 5. REIMBURSEMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES
8 INCURRED DURING THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

9 Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. §§ 1222 and 4016, allowable transportation
10 expenditures shall include the costs incurred by a school district or supervisory
11 union for the transportation of food and other aid to students, families, and
12 members of the community during the COVID-19 state of emergency;
13 provided that if these expenditures were already reimbursed by federal or State
14 funds, they shall not also be reimbursed under these sections.

15 Sec. 6. PREKINDERGARTEN; TEACHERS; WAIVER

16 Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 829, if a private provider was prequalified on
17 or before May 31, 2020 [2019?], then the provider shall retain its prequalified
18 status for the 2020-2021 school year despite the loss of services of a teacher
19 who is licensed and endorsed in early childhood education or in early
20 childhood special education under 16 V.S.A. chapter 51, provided that the
21 private provider continues to meet all other qualification criteria.

- 1 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 2 This act shall take effect on passage.