

1 H.181

2 Introduced by Representatives Scheuermann of Stowe, Brennan of Colchester,
3 Donahue of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Harrison of
4 Chittenden, Leffler of Enosburgh, and Strong of Albany

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Education; flexible pathways; proficiency-based learning and
8 proficiency-based graduation

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to permit
10 schools to choose whether to offer proficiency-based learning and proficiency-
11 based graduation.

12 An act relating to making proficiency-based learning and proficiency-based
13 graduation voluntary

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

15 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

16 (a) The Flexible Pathways Initiative was enacted in 2013 to:

17 (1) encourage and support the creativity of school districts as they
18 develop and expand high-quality educational experiences;

1 (2) promote opportunities for Vermont students to achieve
2 postsecondary readiness through high-quality educational experiences that
3 acknowledge individual goals, learning styles, and abilities; and

4 (3) increase the rates of secondary school completion and postsecondary
5 continuation in Vermont.

6 (b) Proficiency-based learning and proficiency-based graduation was not
7 part of the Flexible Pathways Initiative and is not required by legislation. The
8 State Board of Education amended its rules on education quality standards in
9 2014 to include these requirements.

10 (c) The imposition proficiency-based learning and proficiency-based
11 graduation requirements on school districts is a significant policy change that
12 should have been discussed, debated, and determined by the General
13 Assembly.

14 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 941 is amended to read:

15 § 941. FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS INITIATIVE

16 * * *

17 (c) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as:

18 (1) discouraging or limiting the authority of any school district to
19 develop or continue to provide educational opportunities for its students that
20 are otherwise permitted, including the provision of Advanced Placement
21 courses; or

