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H.91

Strike-all language for H.152 (Yield Bill)

* * * School Finance and Financial Data Management System * * *

Sec. 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

(a) Sec. E.500.1 of 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, as amended, requires that not later than July 1, 2022 all Vermont supervisory unions, supervisory districts, school districts, and independent tech center districts utilize the same school finance and financial data management system (eFinance), which shall be selected by the Agency of Education per State procurement guidelines.

(b) RHR Smith & Co. performs more than half of all school district audits in the State. In a letter dated October 6, 2020 from RHR Smith & Co. to a school district that was in the first round of eFinance implementation, RHR Smith & Co. found that “many basic accounting needs that any fiscal software should be able to handle, are just not available in eFinance. This increases the burden on staff to manually complete accounting work increasing risk for errors and staff burnout. Additionally, it requires more staff time and overall makes the daily fiscal routine more cumbersome when compared to other fiscal software we see or that are currently utilized by your peers.”

(c) Because eFinance is designed to be a finance and financial data management system used by all school districts, these comments raise concern

1 that its functionality should be examined and improved prior to being
2 implemented across the State.

3 (d) The purpose of this act is to:

4 (1) extend the deadline to December 31, 2022 for implementation of
5 eFinance;

6 (2) suspend for six months the further implementation of eFinance to
7 provide time for further evaluation of the system, provided that the Agency of
8 Education and its contractor for implementation of the system shall continue to
9 support users, as of the date of enactment of this act, of the system; and

10 (3) require the Agency of Education to issue status reports to the
11 General Assembly.

12 Sec. 2. 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Sec. E.500.1, as amended
13 by 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 72, Sec. E.500.5, is further amended to read:

14 Sec. E.500.1. SCHOOL FINANCE AND FINANCIAL DATA
15 MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

16 (a) Not later than ~~July 1~~ December 31, 2022, all Vermont supervisory
17 unions, supervisory districts, school districts, and independent tech center
18 districts shall utilize the same school finance and financial data management
19 system. The system shall be selected by the Agency of Education per State
20 procurement guidelines.

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1 Sec. 3. SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF STATEWIDE
2 FINANCE AND FINANCIAL DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

3 Notwithstanding Sec. E.500.1 of 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves
4 No. 11, as amended, the implementation of the statewide school finance and
5 financial data management system shall be suspended until the date six months
6 after the enactment of this act, provided that the Agency of Education and its
7 contractor for implementation of the system shall continue to support users, as
8 of the date of enactment of this act, of the system.

9 Sec.4. AGENCY OF EDUCATION; REPORTS

10 On or before each of June 1, September 1, and December 1, 2021, the
11 Agency of Education shall provide a written report to the General Assembly on
12 the status of improving and implementing the school finance and financial data
13 management system, including the status of:

- 14 (1) system outages;
15 (2) bank reconciliations;
16 (3) reporting enhancements;
17 (4) systems enhancements; and
18 (5) user training.

19 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on passage.