

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred House Bill No. 716
3 entitled “An act relating to making miscellaneous changes in education law”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended by striking out all after
6 the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * Special Education Funding * * *

8 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2961 is amended to read:

9 § 2961. CENSUS GRANT

10 * * *

11 (d)(1)(A) For fiscal year 2023, the amount of the census grant for a
12 supervisory union shall be:

13 (i) the average amount it received for fiscal years 2018, 2019, and
14 2020, or the average amount it received for fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021,
15 whichever amount is greater, from the State for special education under
16 sections 2961 (standard mainstream block grants), 2963 (special education
17 expenditures reimbursement), and 2963a (exceptional circumstances) of this
18 title; increased by

19 (ii) the annual change in the National Income and Product
20 Accounts (NIPA) Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government

1 Consumption Expenditures and Gross Investment as reported by the
2 U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

3 * * *

4 * * * Special Education Rule Change; Delay * * *

5 **Sec. 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION 2360 RULE SERIES; PARTIAL**

6 **DELAY**

7 (a) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to allow educators and
8 staff time to adequately prepare for the delivery of special education services
9 as required under the State Board of Education Special Education Rules Series
10 2360, which takes effect on July 1, 2022.

11 (b) Extension. Therefore, notwithstanding any provision of law to the
12 contrary under 16 V.S.A. § 164 and 3 V.S.A. § 845(d), in order to ensure that
13 educators and staff are adequately prepared to comply with Board Rules 2362
14 and 2362.2.5, the Agency of Education, may, upon request, grant an extension
15 for compliance with those rules on a school-by-school basis.

16 (1) An extension request shall be made in writing and contain the
17 following:

18 (A) the name and contact information for the school requesting the
19 extension;

20 (B) the specific rule a compliance extension is being sought for;

1 of Vermont students, it is necessary to invest in nontraditional educator
2 training programs. The Vermont National Education Association's GrowVT-
3 Ed Academy provides the support, guidance, and curriculum design that
4 prospective educators need to successfully obtain licensure through the
5 Vermont Agency of Education's peer review process. Prospective educators
6 are supported through the peer review application process and meet weekly
7 during the development of the peer review portfolio for the mentoring,
8 professional development, and observation necessary for successful licensure.

9 (b) Appropriation. Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(d), the sum of
10 \$1,425,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of
11 Education in fiscal year 2023 for the purpose of funding program and licensing
12 costs for up to 300 individuals who participate in the Vermont National
13 Education Association's GrowVT-Ed Academy to become licensed Vermont
14 educators through the peer review process.

15 (1) These funds shall be used for the costs of mentors, instructors,
16 licensing fees, and program materials on a per-participant basis.

17 (2) The Agency shall develop a process through which local school
18 districts notify the Agency when they have prospective educators enrolled in
19 the GrowVT-ED Academy. The Agency shall transmit funds to cover the cost
20 of program materials, instructors, and mentors to the school district within
21 which each prospective educator is working. The Agency shall retain the

1 portfolio licensing fee for each prospective educator to be applied upon
2 submission of the peer review portfolio for review by the Agency's Peer
3 Review Coordinator.

4 (c) On or before January 15, 2023, the Agency of Education, in
5 consultation with the Vermont National Education Association, shall report to
6 the Senate and House Committees on Education on the status of the
7 implementation of this section, including information on the number of
8 prospective educators participating in the GrowVT-Ed Academy and any
9 recommendations for legislative action.

10 * * * Effective Date * * *

11 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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16
17 (Committee vote: _____)

18 _____

19 Senator _____

20 FOR THE COMMITTEE