

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) Rule delay.

8 (b) Waiver.

9 (c) Remove Sec. 2 (no delay).

10 \* \* \* Education Quality Standards; Rulemaking \* \* \*

11 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 165 is amended to read:

12 \* \* \*

13 (g)(1) In addition to the education quality standards provided in  
14 subsection (a) of this section, each Vermont school district shall meet the  
15 school district quality standards adopted by rule of the State Board of  
16 Education regarding:

17 (A) **holocaust education and education related to other historical**  
18 **global human rights violations**; and

19 (B) civics education, which shall include the U.S. Constitution and  
20 foundations of U.S. government, political philosophy, social movements and  
21 struggles, and community engagement.

1           (2) These standards shall include a process for school district quality  
2           reviews to be conducted by the Agency of Education. Annually, the Secretary  
3           shall publish metrics regarding the outcomes of school district quality  
4           reviews.

5           **Sec. 4. EDUCATION QUALITY STANDARDS; RULEMAKING**

6           On or before February 1, 2023, the State Board of Education shall initiate  
7           rulemaking to update education quality standards to include school district  
8           quality standards as required under Sec. 3 of this act. Prior to the filing of the  
9           draft updated rules with the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules,  
10           the Agency of Education shall engage stakeholders for input on the draft rules  
11           in accordance with a written plan approved by the State Board of Education.

12                   \* \* \* Crime Insurance Coverage for School Districts \* \* \*

13           Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 492 is amended to read:

14           § 492. POWERS, DUTIES, AND LIABILITIES; BONDS

15           (a) The powers, duties, and liabilities of the collector, treasurer, prudential  
16           committee, and clerk shall be like those of a town collector, treasurer, board of  
17           school directors, and the school board clerk, respectively.

18           (b) Before entering upon their duties, the collector and treasurer shall give a  
19           bond to the district conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties, in  
20           such sum as may be required. ~~When~~ In lieu of taking a bond from a collector  
21           or treasurer, or both, a school district may choose to provide suitable crime

1 insurance covering the collector or treasurer, or both. If a school district has  
2 not provided suitable crime insurance in lieu of a bond and a collector or  
3 treasurer for 10 days neglects to give a bond as required, ~~his or her~~ that office  
4 shall be vacant.

5 \* \* \* Peer Review Support Grant Program \* \* \*

6 Sec. 6. EDUCATOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; APPROPRIATION;  
7 REPORT

8 (a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to encourage and support the  
9 development and retention of qualified and effective Vermont educators. To  
10 combat the growing educator shortage throughout the State and meet the needs  
11 of Vermont students, it is necessary to invest in nontraditional educator  
12 training programs.

13 (b) Grant program.

14 (1) Program creation. In fiscal year 2023, there is established the Peer  
15 Review Support Grant Program, to be administered by the Agency of  
16 Education, to provide grants to expand support, mentoring, and professional  
17 development to prospective educators seeking licensure through the Agency of  
18 Education's peer review process, with the goal of increased program  
19 completion rates.

1           (2) Program administration. The Agency shall adopt policies,  
2           procedures, and guidelines necessary for implementation of the Program  
3           described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

4           (3) Eligibility criteria. The Agency shall issue grants to organizations  
5           with established programs designed to provide prospective educators in the  
6           peer review program the support necessary for successful completion of the  
7           peer review process by providing:

8                   (A) support through the Praxis exam process;

9                   (B) local educator lead seminars designed around the Vermont  
10           licensure portfolio themes;

11                   (C) local educator mentors;

12                   (D) support in completing the peer review portfolio and licensing  
13           process; and

14                   (E) continued professional development support within the first year  
15           of licensure.

16           (4) Report. On or before January 15, 2023, the Agency of Education  
17           shall report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on the status of  
18           the implementation of the Peer Review Support Grant Program and a summary  
19           and performance review of the programs to which grants were awarded. The  
20           report shall include any metrics used in the performance review, the number of

1 program participants, endorsement areas of participants, feedback from  
2 participants and mentors, and any recommendation for legislative action.

3 (c) Appropriation. Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(d), the sum of  
4 \$712,500.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of  
5 Education in fiscal year 2023 for the purpose of funding the Peer Review  
6 Support Grant Program.

7 \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

8 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATES

9 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022, except that Sec. 4 (education  
10 quality standards; rulemaking) shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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15 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

16

\_\_\_\_\_

17

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

18

FOR THE COMMITTEE