

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.

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4 * * * Holocaust Education; Report * * *

5 Sec. 2. HOLOCAUST EDUCATION; REPORT AND
6 RECOMMENDATIONS

7 On or before January 15, 2023, the Agency of Education shall issue a
8 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on the status
9 of Holocaust education in public schools and its recommendations to ensure
10 that Holocaust education is included in the educational programs provided to
11 students in public schools. In preparing the report and recommendations, the
12 Agency of Education shall work with the Vermont Holocaust Memorial to
13 avail themselves of that organization's knowledge of the subject and
14 experience in Vermont schools.

15 * * * Crime Insurance Coverage for School Districts * * *

16 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 492 is amended to read:

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

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

1 (b) Before entering upon their duties, the collector and treasurer shall give a
2 bond to the district conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties, in
3 such sum as may be required. ~~When~~ In lieu of taking a bond from a collector
4 or treasurer, or both, a school district may choose to provide suitable crime
5 insurance covering the collector or treasurer, or both. If a school district has
6 not provided suitable crime insurance in lieu of a bond and a collector or
7 treasurer for 10 days neglects to give a bond as required, his or her that office
8 shall be vacant.

9 * * * Peer Review Support Grant Program * * *

10 Sec. 4. EDUCATOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; APPROPRIATION;
11 REPORT

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

17 (b) Grant program.

18 (1) Program creation. In fiscal year 2023, there is established the Peer
19 Review Support Grant Program, to be administered by the Agency of
20 Education, to provide grants to expand support, mentoring, and professional
21 development to prospective educators seeking licensure through the Agency of

1 Education’s peer review process, with the goal of increased program
2 completion rates.

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

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

10 (A) support through the Praxis exam process;

11 (B) local educator lead seminars designed around the Vermont
12 licensure portfolio themes;

13 (C) local educator mentors;

14 (D) support in completing the peer review portfolio and licensing
15 process; and

16 (E) continued professional development support within the first year
17 of licensure.

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

1 report shall include any metrics used in the performance review, the number of
2 program participants, endorsement areas of participants, feedback from
3 participants and mentors, and any recommendation for legislative action.

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

8 * * * Effective Date * * *

9 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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15 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE