

1 Sec. A. TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
2 SCHOOL CLOSURES

3 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a union school
4 district shall be prohibited from closing a school building within its district
5 unless the closure is approved by the district voters residing in the town in
6 which the building is located. For the purposes of this section, “closing a
7 school” includes the complete cessation of operation of all grades within a
8 school building as well as the cessation of operation of fewer than all grades
9 within the building.

10 (b) This section is repealed on July 1, 2023.

11 Sec. B. UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT CLOSURES; REPORT

12 On or before January 15, 2023, the Agency of Education shall issue a
13 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on union
14 school district school building closures. In preparing the report, the Agency
15 shall consult with the State Board of Education, the Vermont School Boards
16 Association, the Vermont Principals’ Association, the Vermont
17 Superintendents Association, and the Vermont National Education
18 Association. The Agency shall also solicit and consider comments from the
19 public. The report shall include:

1 (1) an examination of examples of recent school closures, or attempted
2 school closures, within union school districts and identification of common
3 trends and issues;

4 (2) an examination of the impact school closures have had or are
5 anticipated to have on towns or member districts seeking to withdraw from a
6 union school district;

7 (3) an examination of the issues leading a school board to consider
8 closing a school building, the options to address the issue that could be
9 employed instead of school closure, and the impact the inability to close a
10 school building has had or is expected to have on the union school district or
11 any of the towns or member districts within it;

12 (4) an examination of the advantages and disadvantages of creating a
13 consistent statewide process for union school district school closures and a
14 common definition of what actions constitute a closure;

15 (5) recommendations on school closure standards and processes; and

16 (6) recommendations for legislative action, including recommended
17 legislative language.

18 Sec. C. UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT WITHDRAWAL; REPORT

19 On or before January 15, 2023, the Agency of Education shall issue a
20 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on the union
21 school district withdrawal process. In preparing the report, the Agency shall

1 consult with the State Board of Education, the Vermont School Boards
2 Association, the Vermont Principals' Association, the Vermont
3 Superintendents Association, and the Vermont National Education
4 Association. The Agency shall also solicit and consider comments from the
5 public. The report shall include:

6 (1) an examination of the advantages and disadvantages of the
7 withdrawal process in place on January 1, 2022 for union school districts;

8 (2) identification of alternative withdrawal process options and an
9 examination of the advantages and disadvantages of each;

10 (3) identification and examination of any other issues related to the
11 withdrawal process;

12 (4) recommendations for changes to the withdrawal process and related
13 issues; and

14 (5) recommendations for legislative action, including recommended
15 legislative language.