

1       Sec. 4. WITHDRAWAL ACTIONS APPROVED BY STATE BOARD;  
2               NEW DISTRICTS WITH AN OPERATIONAL DATE ON OR  
3               AFTER JULY 1, 2023

4               (a) Application of this section. This section shall apply solely to a  
5               withdrawal action initiated pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 724 that  
6               were in effect prior to the effective date of Sec. 3 of this act (former 16 V.S.A.  
7               § 724), if each of the following actions occurred prior to that effective date:

8                       (1) the State Board of Education gave final approval to the voter-  
9                       approved and voter-ratified proposal to withdraw from the union school  
10                      district;

11                      (2) the State Board declared a new school district to be reconstituted;

12                      (3) the State Board established the new school district's operational date  
13                      as July 1, 2023 or after;

14                      (4) the voters of the new school district elected school board members;

15                      (5) the voters of the towns within the union district voted to approve the  
16                      financial terms of withdrawal negotiated by the boards of the new school  
17                      district and the union district; and

18                      (6) the State Board charged the new school district and its board with  
19                      performing the transitional activities necessary to assume sole responsibility  
20                      for the education of resident students on the identified operational date.

1        (b) Status report. On or before the regular July 2022 State Board meeting,  
2        the new school district shall submit a written status report to the Board  
3        detailing the actions the district has taken and will take to ensure that, as of its  
4        operational date, the district will be prepared to assume sole responsibility for  
5        the education of its students in prekindergarten through grade 12 in a manner  
6        that will meet educational quality standards as required by 16 V.S.A. § 165 and  
7        to ensure the provision of supervisory union services. The status report shall  
8        include a timeline indicating the date by which each action shall be complete.

9        (c) State Board review and findings.

10        (1) Review. The State Board shall consider the status report and provide  
11        the board of the new school district an opportunity to be heard. The Board  
12        may, in its discretion, take testimony from other individuals and entities,  
13        including the union school district and the Agency of Education.

14        (2) Preparedness deemed likely. If the State Board determines that it is  
15        likely the new school district will be prepared, on the identified operational  
16        date, to assume full responsibility for the education of its resident students in a  
17        manner that substantially complies with educational quality standards as  
18        required by 16 V.S.A. § 165, and to ensure the provision of supervisory union  
19        services, then the new school district, the union district, and, if applicable, the  
20        supervisory union or unions shall continue to take all actions necessary to  
21        prepare for the realignment of duties on the operational date.

1           (3) Preparedness deemed unlikely.

2           (A) If the State Board determines there is a reasonable risk that the  
3           new district will not be able to be prepared, on the operational date, to assume  
4           full responsibility for the education of its resident students in a manner that  
5           substantially complies with educational quality standards as required by  
6           16 V.S.A. § 165, and to ensure the provision of supervisory union services,  
7           then the Board shall issue a written advisory statement detailing the factors  
8           underlying its conclusion, which it shall post on its website and transmit  
9           electronically to the board of the new school district.

10           (B) Upon receipt of an advisory opinion pursuant to subdivision  
11           (c)(3)(A) of this section, the board of the new school district shall post the  
12           document on its website and schedule the contents as a topic for public  
13           discussion at a special or regular board meeting.

14           (C) Prior to the operational date and after public discussion and any  
15           board deliberations:

16           (i) The board of the new school district may continue to take all  
17           actions necessary to prepare for the realignment of duties on the operational  
18           date.

19           (ii) On its own motion, or if petitioned to do so by at least five  
20           percent of the voters in the new school district, the board of the new school  
21           district shall warn a vote to request the State Board to reverse its declaration

1 approving withdrawal and reconstituting the new school district. The vote  
2 shall be held before the October 1 prior to the operational date.

3 (I) The question shall be decided by Australian ballot.

4 (II) Within 45 days after the vote or 15 days after a vote to  
5 reconsider under 17 V.S.A. § 2661, whichever is later, the clerk of the new  
6 school district shall certify the results of the vote to the Secretary of State who  
7 shall record the certificate and give notice of the vote to the clerk of the union  
8 district, the clerks of each of the other towns within the union district, and the  
9 Secretary of Education. The clerk of the new school district shall submit the  
10 certification regardless of whether the voters in the district voted to petition the  
11 State Board to reverse its declarations.

12 (D) If the new school district requests the State Board to take action  
13 under subdivision (C) of this subsection (c), then:

14 (i) the State Board shall reverse and void earlier declarations  
15 approving withdrawal and reconstituting the new school district and the  
16 withdrawal action initiated pursuant to the former 16 V.S.A. § 724 is  
17 concluded; and

18 (ii) the union school district shall continue to be solely responsible  
19 for the education of the students residing in the town that petitioned for  
20 withdrawal; provided, however:

1                   (I) the new school district and its board shall continue to exist  
2                   for up to six months after the day on which the State Board reverses and voids  
3                   its earlier declarations for the sole purpose of completing any outstanding  
4                   business that cannot legally be performed by another entity; and

5                   (II) the State Board may make any declarations and take any  
6                   actions, including recording certifications with the Secretary of State, that are  
7                   necessary to support the consequences outlined in this subdivision (c)(3)(D).

8                   (d) Repeal. This section is repealed on July 1, 2023.

9                   Sec. 5. WITHDRAWAL PROPOSALS ON WHICH THE STATE BOARD  
10                   HAS NOT TAKEN ACTION; ALTERNATIVE GOVERNANCE  
11                   PROPOSAL PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

12                   (a) Application of this section.

13                   (1) For purposes of this section and notwithstanding any provision of  
14                   law to the contrary, the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 724 that were in effect prior  
15                   to the effective date of Sec. 3 of this act (former 16 V.S.A. § 724) are deemed  
16                   to authorize withdrawal from a unified union school district created by the  
17                   State Board of Education in its “Final Report of Decisions and Order on  
18                   Statewide School District Merger Decisions Pursuant to Act 46, Secs. 8(b) and  
19                   10” dated November 28, 2018 (Order).

20                   (2) This section shall apply solely to a withdrawal action initiated by a  
21                   town within a union district (petitioning town) pursuant to the former

1 16 V.S.A. § 724 if each of the following actions occurred prior to the effective  
2 date of Sec. 3 of this act:

3 (A) the State Board created the union district in its Order;

4 (B) prior to issuance of the Order, the districts that merged to form  
5 the union district submitted a proposal to the Secretary of Education and the  
6 State Board setting forth the details of their self-evaluation and a proposal for  
7 an alternative governance structure pursuant to 2015 Acts and Resolves  
8 No. 46, Sec. 9 (Section 9 proposal);

9 (C) the voters of the petitioning town approved a proposal to  
10 withdraw from the union district;

11 (D) the voters of each of the other towns within the union district  
12 ratified the petitioning town's proposal to withdraw; and

13 (E) the State Board of Education has not approved or taken action to  
14 approve the withdrawal proposal or to declare that a new school district is  
15 reconstituted.

16 (b) Report and plan. At any time after the effective date of this section, but  
17 on or before the regular September 2022 State Board meeting, the self-selected  
18 representatives of the petitioning town and the board of the union district shall  
19 submit to the State Board in writing:

1           (1) A report explaining the ways in which the current plan of the  
2           petitioning town and the union district for operation after withdrawal conforms  
3           to or differs from the Section 9 proposal.

4           (2) A plan, including a timeline, identifying the actions the petitioning  
5           town and the union district have taken and will take to transition to the  
6           proposed structure and to ensure that, as of an identified operational date, the  
7           proposed new school district will be prepared to assume sole responsibility for  
8           the education of its students in prekindergarten through grade 12 in a manner  
9           that will meet educational quality standards as required by 16 V.S.A. § 165,  
10           including the actions necessary to transition to the proposed method by which  
11           supervisory union services would be provided. At a minimum, the plan and  
12           timeline should include the actions identified in subsection (d) of this section.

13           (c) State Board review and action.

14           (1) Review. The State Board shall consider the report and plan and shall  
15           provide the self-selected representatives of the petitioning town and the board  
16           of the union district an opportunity to be heard. The Board may, in its  
17           discretion, take testimony from other individuals and entities.

18           (2) Preparedness determination and vote to approve withdrawal. The  
19           State Board shall determine if it is likely or unlikely the proposed new school  
20           district, on the proposed operational date, will be prepared to assume full  
21           responsibility for the education of its resident students in a manner that

1 substantially complies with educational quality standards as required by  
2 16 V.S.A. § 165 and also whether it is likely or unlikely that supervisory union  
3 services will be available to both the proposed new school district and the  
4 union district on the operational date. If the State Board determines  
5 preparedness is unlikely, it shall issue a written advisory statement detailing  
6 the factors underlying its conclusion, which shall be posted on its website.  
7 Upon making its preparedness determination, the State Board shall vote to:

8 (A) approve the withdrawal proposal;

9 (B) approve any motion necessary for the withdrawal process to  
10 proceed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, including a motion to create  
11 a new school district as of the date of the motion in order to enable the election  
12 of members to the board of the proposed new school district, negotiation and  
13 voter approval of a withdrawal agreement pursuant to the former 16 V.S.A.  
14 § 724(c), and preparation to assume full responsibility for the education of  
15 resident students on the operational date;

16 (C) determine or set a schedule for determining the manner in which  
17 supervisory union services will be provided to the proposed new school district  
18 and, if appropriate, the union district to be effective on the proposed new  
19 school district's operational date; and

20 (D) make any other findings or declarations and approve any other  
21 motions that are related and necessary to the withdrawal proposal.

1       (d) Actions necessary to be fully operational. After the State Board makes  
2       its determination of preparedness and approves the withdrawal process  
3       pursuant to subdivision (c)(2) of this section, then the new school district, the  
4       union district, and, if applicable, the supervisory union or unions shall take all  
5       actions necessary to be fully operational on the operational date. At a  
6       minimum, the required necessary actions shall include:

7           (1) election of initial school board members by the voters of the new  
8       school district, whose terms of office shall be arranged so that one each expires  
9       on the day of the second, third, and fourth annual meeting of the new school  
10       district, and whose sole responsibility until the new school district's  
11       operational date shall be to prepare for the district to assume sole responsibility  
12       for the education of resident students on that date;

13           (2) negotiation of the proposed financial terms of withdrawal by the  
14       board of the new school district and the board of the union district in order to  
15       comply with the requirements of the former 16 V.S.A. § 724(c);

16           (3) approval by the voters of each town within the union district of the  
17       negotiated proposed financial terms of withdrawal in order to comply with the  
18       requirements of the former 16 V.S.A. § 724(c);

19           (4) preparation of a proposed budget by the board of the new school  
20       district for the fiscal year beginning on the district's operational date, together  
21       with presentation to and approval by the district's voters prior to that date;

1           (5) preparation for the provision of supervisory union services to the  
2           new school district and, if applicable, for the transition of the union school  
3           district from a supervisory district structure to a supervisory union structure;  
4           and

5           (6) all other actions necessary to transition from one school district to  
6           two districts and, if applicable, to transition from a supervisory district  
7           structure to a supervisory union structure, including all actions necessary to  
8           address the collectively bargained rights of employees of the current  
9           employing entity.

10          (e) Preparedness deemed unlikely.

11           (1) If the State Board determines preparedness is unlikely and issues a  
12           written advisory statement detailing the factors underlying its conclusion  
13           pursuant to subdivision (c)(2) of this section, it shall electronically transmit the  
14           advisory statement to the board of the new school district upon its election.

15           (2) Upon receipt of the advisory statement, the board of the new school  
16           district shall post the document on its website and schedule the contents as a  
17           topic for public discussion at a special or regular board meeting.

18           (3) Prior to the operational date and after public discussion and any  
19           board deliberations:

1           (A) The board of the new school district may continue to take all  
2           actions necessary to prepare for the realignment of duties on the operational  
3           date.

4           (B) On its own motion, or if petitioned to do so by at least five  
5           percent of the voters in the new school district, the board of the new school  
6           district shall warn a vote to request the State Board to reverse its declaration  
7           approving withdrawal and reconstituting the new school district. The vote  
8           shall be held before the October 1 prior to the operational date.

9           (i) The question shall be decided by Australian ballot.

10           (ii) Within 45 days after the vote or 15 days after a vote to  
11           reconsider under 17 V.S.A. § 2661, whichever is later, the clerk of the new  
12           school district shall certify the results of the vote to the Secretary of State who  
13           shall record the certificate and give notice of the vote to the clerk of the union  
14           district, the clerks of each of the other towns within the union district, and the  
15           Secretary of Education. The clerk of the new school district shall submit the  
16           certification regardless of whether the voters in the district voted to petition the  
17           State Board to reverse its declarations.

18           (4) If the new school district requests the State Board to take action  
19           under subdivision (3) of this subsection, then:

20           (A) the State Board shall reverse and void earlier declarations  
21           approving withdrawal and reconstituting the new school district and the

1 withdrawal action initiated pursuant to the former 16 V.S.A. § 724 is  
2 concluded; and

3 (B) the union school district shall continue to be solely responsible  
4 for the education of the students residing in the town that petitioned for  
5 withdrawal; provided, however:

6 (i) the new school district and its board shall continue to exist for  
7 up to six months after the day on which the State Board reverses and voids its  
8 earlier declarations for the sole purpose of completing any outstanding  
9 business that cannot legally be performed by another entity; and

10 (ii) the State Board may make any declarations and take any  
11 actions, including recording certifications with the Secretary of State, that are  
12 necessary to support the consequences outlined in this subdivision (e)(4).

13 (f) Application of this section to withdrawal from a union elementary or  
14 union high school district.

15 (1) The processes outlined in this section shall apply to an action of a  
16 member school district to withdraw from a union elementary or union high  
17 school district if the five elements set forth in subdivisions (A)–(E) of  
18 subdivision (a)(2) are met.

19 (2) For purposes of applying the process in this section to withdrawal  
20 from a union elementary or union high school district under this subsection, the  
21 terms used in subsections (a) through (e) have the following meanings:

1           (A) “Petitioning town” means the member district of the union  
2           elementary or union high school district that initiated the withdrawal process  
3           pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 721a that were in effect prior to the  
4           effective date of Sec. 3 of this act.

5           (B) “Selectboard” means the board of the member district that  
6           initiated the withdrawal process pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 721a  
7           that were in effect prior to the effective date of Sec. 3 of this act.

8           (C) “Town within the union school district” means a member district  
9           of the union elementary or union high school district.

10          (g) Repeal. This section is repealed on July 1, 2024.

11          Sec. 6. WITHDRAWAL PROPOSALS ON WHICH THE STATE BOARD  
12                   HAS NOT TAKEN ACTION; UNION DISTRICT CREATED BY  
13                   THE ELECTORATE

14          (a) Application of this section. This section shall apply solely to a  
15          withdrawal action initiated by a town within a union district (petitioning town)  
16          pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 724 that were in effect prior to the  
17          effective date of Sec. 3 of this act (former 16 V.S.A. § 724) if each of the  
18          following actions occurred prior to that date:

19               (1) the union district formed pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A.  
20               §§ 706–706j that were in effect prior to the effective date of Sec. 3 of this act;

1           (2) the voters of the petitioning town approved a proposal to withdraw  
2           from the union district;

3           (3) the voters of each of the other towns within the union district ratified  
4           the petitioning town’s proposal to withdraw; and

5           (4) the State Board of Education has not approved or taken action to  
6           approve the withdrawal proposal or to declare that a new school district is  
7           reconstituted.

8           (b) Report and plan. At any time after the effective date of this section, but  
9           on or before the regular September 2022 State Board meeting, the self-selected  
10           representatives of the petitioning town shall submit a written report and plan to  
11           the State Board.

12           (1) Report. The report shall describe the analysis that has been  
13           performed by the petitioning town to evaluate the likely strengths and  
14           challenges for the proposed new school district and for the reconfigured union  
15           district if withdrawal is approved and the ways in which withdrawal would  
16           enable both districts to provide for the education of their respective resident  
17           students in a manner that will meet educational quality standards as required  
18           by 16 V.S.A. § 165. The report shall address:

19           (A) the educational advantages and disadvantages likely to result  
20           from withdrawal for the students in the proposed new school district and the

1 students in the remaining towns within the union district and the ways in which  
2 they are preferable to those of continuing in the current governance structure;

3 (B) the financial advantages and disadvantages likely to result from  
4 withdrawal for the taxpayers in the proposed new school district and the  
5 taxpayers in the remaining towns within the union district and the ways in  
6 which they are preferable to those of continuing in the current governance  
7 structure;

8 (C) the likely operational and financial viability and sustainability of  
9 the proposed new school district and the union district after withdrawal of the  
10 petitioning town;

11 (D) any other advantages and disadvantages of withdrawal, including  
12 any advantages and disadvantages to the students and taxpayers of the region  
13 and the State; and

14 (E) the potential source of supervisory union services for the new  
15 school district and, if appropriate, for the union district, including discussions  
16 with the board of any supervisory union to which the petitioning town  
17 proposes assignment.

18 (2) Plan. The plan shall describe the actions that the petitioning town  
19 has taken and will take to ensure that, as of its proposed operational date, the  
20 proposed new district will be prepared to assume sole responsibility for the  
21 education of its students in prekindergarten through grade 12 in a manner that

1 will meet educational quality standards as required by 16 V.S.A. § 165,  
2 including the actions necessary to transition to the proposed method by which  
3 supervisory union services would be provided. The plan shall include a  
4 timeline indicating the date by which each action will be complete. At a  
5 minimum, the plan and timeline should include the actions identified in  
6 subsection (d) of this section.

7 (c) State Board review and action.

8 (1) Review. The State Board shall consider the report and plan and shall  
9 provide the self-selected representatives of the petitioning town and the board  
10 of the union district an opportunity to be heard. The Board may, in its  
11 discretion, take testimony from other individuals and entities.

12 (2) Preparedness determination and vote to approve withdrawal. The  
13 State Board shall determine if it is likely or unlikely the proposed new school  
14 district will be prepared to assume full responsibility for the education of its  
15 resident students in a manner that substantially complies with educational  
16 quality standards as required by 16 V.S.A. § 165 and whether it is likely or  
17 unlikely that supervisory union services will be available to the proposed new  
18 school district on the operational date. If the State Board determines  
19 preparedness is unlikely, it shall issue a written advisory statement detailing  
20 the factors underlying its conclusion, which shall be posted on its website.  
21 Upon making its preparedness determination, the State Board shall vote to:

1           (A) approve the withdrawal proposal;

2           (B) approve any motion necessary for the withdrawal process to  
3 proceed pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, including a motion to create  
4 a new school district as of the date of the motion in order to enable the election  
5 of members to the board of the proposed new school district, negotiation and  
6 voter approval of a withdrawal agreement pursuant to the former 16 V.S.A.  
7 § 724(c), and preparation to assume full responsibility for the education of  
8 resident students on the operational date;

9           (C) determine or set a schedule for determining the manner in which  
10 supervisory union services will be provided to the proposed new school district  
11 and, if appropriate, the union district, to be effective on the proposed new  
12 school district's operational date; and

13           (D) make any other findings or declarations and approve any other  
14 motions that are related and necessary to the withdrawal proposal.

15           (d) Actions necessary to be fully operational. After the State Board makes  
16 its determination of preparedness and approves the withdrawal process  
17 pursuant to subdivision (c)(2) of this section, then the new school district, the  
18 union district, and, if applicable, the supervisory union or unions shall take all  
19 actions necessary to be fully operational on the identified operational date. At  
20 a minimum, the required necessary actions shall include:

1           (1) election of initial school board members by the voters of the new  
2           school district, whose terms of office shall be arranged so that one each expires  
3           on the day of the second, third, and fourth annual meeting of the new school  
4           district and whose sole responsibility until the new school district's operational  
5           date shall be to prepare for the district to assume sole responsibility for the  
6           education of resident students on that date;

7           (2) negotiation by the board of the new school district and the board of  
8           the union district of the proposed financial terms of withdrawal in order to  
9           comply with the requirements of the former 16 V.S.A. § 724(c);

10           (3) approval by the voters of each town within the union district of the  
11           negotiated proposed financial terms of withdrawal in order to comply with the  
12           requirements of the former 16 V.S.A. § 724(c);

13           (4) preparation of a proposed budget by the board of the new school  
14           district for the fiscal year beginning on the district's operational date, together  
15           with presentation to and approval by the district's voters prior to that date;

16           (5) preparation for the provision of supervisory union services to the  
17           new school district and, if applicable, for the transition of the union school  
18           district from a supervisory district structure to a supervisory union structure;  
19           and

20           (6) all other actions necessary to transition from one school district to  
21           two districts and, if applicable, to transition from a supervisory district

1 structure to a supervisory union structure, including any actions necessary to  
2 address the collectively bargained rights of employees of the former employing  
3 entity.

4 (e) Preparedness deemed unlikely.

5 (1) If the State Board determines preparedness is unlikely and issues a  
6 written advisory statement detailing the factors underlying its conclusion  
7 pursuant to subdivision (c)(2) of this section, it shall electronically transmit the  
8 advisory statement to the board of the new school district upon its election.

9 (2) Upon receipt of the advisory statement, the board of the new school  
10 district shall post the document on its website and schedule the contents as a  
11 topic for public discussion at a special or regular board meeting.

12 (3) Prior to the operational date and after public discussion and any  
13 board deliberations:

14 (A) The board of the new school district may continue to take all  
15 actions necessary to prepare for the realignment of duties on the operational  
16 date.

17 (B) On its own motion, or if petitioned to do so by at least five  
18 percent of the voters in the new school district, the board of the new school  
19 district shall warn a vote to request the State Board to reverse its declaration  
20 approving withdrawal and reconstituting the new school district. The vote  
21 shall be held before the October 1 prior to the operational date.

1                   (i) The question shall be decided by Australian ballot.

2                   (ii) Within 45 days after the vote or 15 days after a vote to  
3                   reconsider under 17 V.S.A. § 2661, whichever is later, the clerk of the new  
4                   school district shall certify the results of the vote to the Secretary of State who  
5                   shall record the certificate and give notice of the vote to the clerk of the union  
6                   district, the clerks of each of the other towns within the union district, and the  
7                   Secretary of Education. The clerk of the new school district shall submit the  
8                   certification regardless of whether the voters in the district voted to petition the  
9                   State Board to reverse its declarations.

10                   (4) If the new school district requests the State Board to take action  
11                   under subdivision (3) of this subsection, then:

12                   (A) the State Board shall reverse and void earlier declarations  
13                   approving withdrawal and reconstituting the new school district and the  
14                   withdrawal action initiated pursuant to the former 16 V.S.A. § 724 is  
15                   concluded; and

16                   (B) the union school district shall continue to be solely responsible  
17                   for the education of the students residing in the town that petitioned for  
18                   withdrawal; provided, however:

19                   (i) the new school district and its board shall continue to exist for  
20                   up to six months after the day on which the State Board reverses and voids its

1 earlier declarations for the sole purpose of completing any outstanding  
2 business that cannot legally be performed by another entity; and

3 (ii) the State Board may make any declarations and take any  
4 actions, including recording certifications with the Secretary of State, that are  
5 necessary to support the consequences outlined in this subdivision (e)(4).

6 (f) Application of this section to withdrawal from a union elementary or  
7 union high school district.

8 (1) The processes outlined in this section shall apply to an action of a  
9 member school district to withdraw from a union elementary or union high  
10 school district if the four elements set forth in subdivisions (1)–(4) of  
11 subdivision (a) are met.

12 (2) For purposes of applying the process in this section to withdrawal  
13 from a union elementary or union high school district under this subsection, the  
14 terms used in subsections (a) through (d) of this section have the following  
15 meanings:

16 (A) “Petitioning town” means the member district of the union  
17 elementary or union high school district that initiated the withdrawal process  
18 pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 721a that were in effect prior to the  
19 effective date of Sec. 3 of this act.

1           (B) “Selectboard” means the board of the member district that  
2           initiated the withdrawal process pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 721a  
3           that were in effect prior to the effective date of Sec. 3 of this act.

4           (C) “Town within the union school district” means a member district  
5           of the union elementary or union high school district.

6           (g) Repeal. This section is repealed on July 1, 2024.

7           Sec. 7. WITHDRAWAL PROPOSALS; NO FINAL RATIFICATION

8           VOTES

9           (a) Unified union school districts. If a town within a unified union school  
10           district voted to withdraw from the union district pursuant to the provisions of  
11           16 V.S.A. § 724 that were in effect prior to the effective date of Sec. 3 of this  
12           act, and if the voters of each of the other towns within the union district have  
13           not voted whether to ratify the withdrawal proposal prior to the effective date  
14           of this section or if they each voted but the votes are not final prior to the  
15           effective date, then the withdrawal action is deemed to have been withdrawn.  
16           The voters residing in any town within the union district may initiate new  
17           withdrawal procedures pursuant to the process set forth in Sec. 3, 16 V.S.A.  
18           § 724, of this act.

19           (b) Union elementary and union high school districts. If a member district  
20           of a union elementary or union high school district voted to withdraw from the  
21           union district pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 721a that were in effect

1 prior to the effective date of Sec. 3 of this act, and if the voters of each of the  
2 other member districts of the union district have not voted whether to ratify the  
3 withdrawal proposal prior to the effective date of this section or if they each  
4 voted but the votes are not final prior to the effective date, then the withdrawal  
5 action is deemed to have been withdrawn. The voters residing in any member  
6 district of the union district may initiate new withdrawal procedures pursuant  
7 to the process set forth in Sec. 3, 16 V.S.A. § 725, of this act.

8 Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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