

Starksboro Save Our Schools Amendment to H.727 as passed by the House - April 27, 2022

First, by striking Sec. 6(a) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

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

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

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

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

Second, by striking Sec. 6(c)(1) of the bill as passed by the House and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(c) State Board review and action.

(1) Review.

(A) The State Board shall consider the report and plan and issue an advisory opinion on or before its regular August 2022 meeting. Prior to issuing an advisory opinion, the State Board shall provide the self-selected representatives of the petitioning town and the board of the union district an opportunity to be heard at a meeting held at a location within the petitioning town. The Board, in its discretion, may also take testimony from other individuals and entities including the Agency of Education.

(B) In connection with the Board's review, and in accordance with section 261(a) of Title 16, the Board shall either assign the petitioning town to a supervisory union or district for the provision of supervisory services, or designate the petitioning town as its own supervisory district, provided however, in accordance with section 261(c) of Title 16, the Board shall not designate the petitioning town as its own supervisory district unless it will provide for the education of all resident students in prekindergarten through grade 12 and is large enough to support the planning and administrative functions of a supervisory union.

Third, by striking Sec. 7 of the bill as passed by the House.