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## AOE Testimony: H.122 – Role of the State Board of Education

**Testimony To:** Senate Education Committee

**Respectfully Submitted by:** John Carroll, Chair, State Board of Education  
Daniel M. French, Secretary, Agency of Education

**Date:** April 16, 2021

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The Committee asked us to work together to develop a proposal on H.122 to address the future role of the State Board of Education. We think some modifications to statutory language can be made now to position the Board in more of a strategic role rather than an administrative role. This distinction between strategic versus administrative roles would need to be addressed in a more detailed proposal, but we think the changes below would be helpful in addressing some of the concerns in this area.

### 16 VSA 164. STATE BOARD; GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

The State Board shall ~~evaluate education policy proposals, including timely evaluation of policies presented by the Governor and Secretary;~~ engage local school board members and the broader education community; ~~and establish and advance education policy for the State of Vermont and, consistent with the provisions of this title, its own rules, and rules adopted by the Secretary, establish and regularly update a long-term strategic vision for the delivery of educational services in Vermont; advise the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Secretary of Education on high priority educational policies and issues as they arise; and act in accordance with Legislative mandates, including the adoption of rules and executing special assignments.~~ In addition to other specified duties, the Board shall:

- (1) Establish such advisory commissions as in the judgment of the Board will be of assistance to it in carrying out its duties. Advisory commission members shall serve with or without compensation at the discretion of the Board but shall receive actual expenses incurred in pursuance of their duties.
- (2) Have the authority to enter into agreements with school districts, municipalities, states, the United States, foundations, agencies, or individuals for service, educational programs, or research projects.
- (3) Examine and determine all appeals that by law are made to it and prescribe rules of practice in respect thereto, not inconsistent with law.
- (4) ~~Review and comment on an Agency budget prepared by the Secretary for the Governor.~~  
[Repealed.]
- (5) [Repealed.]

- (6) Make regulations governing the attendance and records of attendance of all students and the department of students attending public schools.
- (7) Adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 ~~as necessary or appropriate for the execution of its powers and duties and of the powers and duties of all persons under its supervision and control~~ to carry out the powers and duties of the Board as directed by the General Assembly, within the limitations of legislative intent.