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**Act No. 66 (H. 461). An act relating to making miscellaneous changes in education laws**

**Subjects: Education; home study; National Guard tuition; uniform chart of accounts; standards for student performance; ethnic and social equity standards; union school districts**

This act makes several miscellaneous changes to Vermont education laws.

- Secs. 1–3 of this act permanently suspend implementation of the Shared School District Data Management System, as required under 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, as amended, while allowing continued support for any existing or new adopters of the system within the confines of the existing contract.
- Sec. 4 of this act adds a benefit category to the National Guard Tuition Benefit Program under 16 V.S.A. § 2857. This section allows the amount of in-state tuition charged by the University of Vermont to be used for courses at a non-Vermont approved postsecondary education institution when the degree program sought is not offered in Vermont.
- Sec. 5 of this act makes several amendments to Vermont’s home study program under 16 V.S.A. § 166b, including the repeal of the ability of the Secretary of Education to order a hearing if the Secretary has concerns about the home study program.
- Sec. 6 of this act extends certain dates for the Vermont Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group created under 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 1 (Act 1). Specifically, this section:
  - extends the cessation date of the Working Group from July 1, 2023, to September 1, 2023;
  - extends the date by which the Working Group shall submit recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding standards for student performance from December 12, 2022, to June 30, 2023; and
  - extends the date by which the State Board of Education shall consider adopting ethnic and social equity studies standards into standards for student performance from December 31, 2022, to December 31, 2023.
- Sec. 7 of this act creates the Act 1 Technical Advisory Group to provide ongoing assistance regarding the work of the Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory (Act 1) Working Group after the Act 1 Working Group ceases to exist on September 1, 2023. Its membership is composed of a subset

of the Act 1 Working Group's current membership as of August 31, 2023, and ceases to exist on January 31, 2024.

- Secs. 9–11 of this act make amendments to the sections governing the number of signatures required on a nominating petition for a union school district board member position under 16 V.S.A. chapter 11. Specifically, when 60 signatures are required for a nominating petition, this section adds the alternative ability to collect signatures from one percent of the legal voters residing in a proposed or current union school district. The candidate would only need to obtain 60 signatures or the signatures of one percent of the legal voters residing in the union school district, not both.

Effective Date: Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 14, 2023