



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

March 20, 2024

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H.630 – An act relating to boards of cooperative education services

As recommended by the House Committee on Education

Bill Summary

This bill would allow for the creation of boards of cooperative education services (BOCES) to provide shared programs and services on a regional and statewide level. It would also establish the parameters for the BOCES. The bill also would appropriate \$70,000 from the General Fund to the Agency of Education (AOE) in fiscal year 2025.

Fiscal Impact

This bill would allow for the creation of boards of cooperative education services (BOCES) to provide shared programs and services on a regional and statewide level. This bill would appropriate \$70,000 from the General Fund to AOE in fiscal year 2025 to fund the Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) Start-up Grant Program.

There is no direct fiscal impact to the Education Fund in fiscal year 2025. While there may be potential cost savings in future years, the Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) cannot estimate these impacts as they will ultimately depend on school district decisions.

Background and Details

While Section 2 may have a fiscal impact, Section 4 is the only section of the bill that would have a direct fiscal impact.

Section 2: BOCES

Section 2 would establish the ability for two or more supervisory unions to form BOCES, with a maximum of seven BOCES across the state. The section includes proposed requirements for the articles of agreement and board of directors, and the statutory powers of BOCES. Each BOCES would be required to establish and manage a fund known as an “education cooperative fund” which would include monies contributed from the member school districts, government grants or gifts, and other contributions.

JFO cannot estimate the fiscal impact of this section, as it will depend on supervisory union decisions and the corresponding establishment of BOCES. However, BOCES may provide opportunities for efficiencies by facilitating shared services or programs among participating schools.

Section 4: BOCES Grant Program; Appropriation

Section 4 would establish the Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) Start-up Grant Program to be administered by AOE. Each BOCES would be eligible for a single \$10,000 grant after the Secretary of Education approves the applicant's initial articles of agreement. These grants would be used for start-up costs and may include reimbursement to member supervisory unions for costs incurred during the exploration and formation of the BOCES and articles of agreement. Section 4 includes a \$70,000 appropriation from the General Fund to AOE in fiscal year 2025 to fund this grant program.