

1 H.640

2 Introduced by Representatives Harple of Glover, Berbeco of Winooski,

3 Burrows of West Windsor, Carris Duncan of Whitingham,

4 Krasnow of South Burlington, LaMont of Morristown,

5 Mrowicki of Putney, Satcowitz of Randolph, and Sweeney of

6 Shelburne

7 Referred to Committee on

8 Date:

9 Subject: Education; school districts; school district board of directors; student

10 members

11 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require all

12 school district boards to include voting student members in grades nine, 10, 11,

13 and 12 and nonvoting student members in grades seven and eight.

14 An act relating to adding voting student members to school district boards

15 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

16 Sec. 1. INTENT

17 It is the intent of the General Assembly to include voting student members

18 on the boards of any new school districts the General Assembly enacts

19 pursuant to 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73.

1 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 564 is added to read:

2 **§ 564. SCHOOL BOARDS; STUDENT MEMBER**

3 (a) Notwithstanding sections 558, 729, and 747 of this title or any other
4 provision of law to the contrary, the school board of a town, city, or
5 incorporated or union school district or the member districts of a joint contract
6 district or a regional technical center school district, which is organized to
7 provide secondary education for its resident students or maintains a regional
8 technical center, shall have student members on the school board in accordance
9 with this section.

10 (1) Each school board of a school district that is organized to provide for
11 the education of its resident students in grades nine through 12 shall have one
12 voting student member from each of grades nine, 10, 11, and 12, for a total of
13 four voting student members, regardless of how many high schools the school
14 district operates.

15 (2) Each school board of a school district that is organized to provide for
16 the education of its resident students in grades seven and eight shall have one
17 nonvoting student member from each of grades seven and eight, for a total of
18 two nonvoting student members, regardless of how many schools the district
19 operates that provide education in grades seven and eight.

20 (3) Both nonvoting and voting student school board members shall serve
21 as a board member for the same term length as a nonstudent member;

1 provided, however, that in the case of a school district that operates schools for
2 some or all of the applicable grades, the student school board members shall
3 also be enrolled in and attending a school operated by the district for the entire
4 time they serve as a school board member. If a student school board member
5 graduates before the student's term expires, the student shall be ineligible to
6 serve on the school board and a new student school board member shall be
7 appointed pursuant to the process developed under subdivision (4) of this
8 subsection.

9 (4) Both nonvoting and voting student school board members shall be
10 appointed by the superintendent of the school district, following a process
11 adopted by the school board that enables secondary students to participate in
12 the choice of the student members.

13 (5) Nothing in this section shall preclude a school board from appointing
14 a nonvoting student member or members.

15 (b) The provisions of this section shall supersede any educational charter
16 provision or school district articles of agreement to the contrary.

17 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.