

1 H.681
2 Introduced by Representatives Olson of Starksboro, Yacovone of Morristown,
3 Boyden of Cambridge, Burrows of West Windsor, Greer of
4 Bennington, Harple of Glover, Headrick of Burlington,
5 Mrowicki of Putney, and O'Brien of Tunbridge

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Education; school district board; school closure; power of electorate

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require a
10 school district to obtain the affirmative vote of the town within which a school
11 is located before closing the school.

12 An act relating to voter approval prior to school closure

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

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

15 **§ 564. SCHOOL CLOSURE**

16 **(a) Before closing a school that operates grades prekindergarten through**
17 **grade 12, or any subset of such grades, or before closing or relocating one or**
18 **more individual grades, a school district shall obtain the affirmative vote of the**
19 **town in which the school or grades facing closure are located.**

3 (c) The provisions of this section shall supersede any educational charter
4 provision or school district articles of agreement to the contrary.

5 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 563 is amended to read:

6 § 563. POWERS OF SCHOOL BOARDS; FORM OF VOTE

7 The school board of a school district, in addition to other duties and
8 authority specifically assigned by law:

9 * * *

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13 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 562 is amended to

15 At a school district meeting, the electorate:

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2 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

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