

H.681

Introduced by Representatives Olson of Starksboro, Yacovone of Morristown,
Boyden of Cambridge, Burrows of West Windsor, Greer of
Bennington, Harple of Glover, Headrick of Burlington,
Mrowicki of Putney, and O'Brien of Tunbridge

Referred to Committee on

Date:

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

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

An act relating to voter approval prior to school closure

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

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

§ 564. SCHOOL CLOSURE

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

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

§ 563. POWERS OF SCHOOL BOARDS; FORM OF VOTE

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

* * *

(7) May relocate or discontinue use of a schoolhouse or facility, subject to the provisions of sections 564, 821, and 822 of this title.

* * *

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

§ 562. POWERS OF ELECTORATE

At a school district meeting, the electorate:

* * *

(7) May authorize the school board to enter into leases of real property for more than three years, to purchase buildings or sites for school purposes, to locate and erect schoolhouses, and to sell, or otherwise dispose of, schoolhouses or sites for same, subject to the provisions of section 564 of this chapter.

- 1 * * *
- 2 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 3 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.