

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Date:

3 Subject: Education; school districts; cooperative education service areas

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to <Purpose>

5 An act relating to next steps in transforming Vermont’s education system

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

7 * * * Cooperative Educational Service Areas * * *

8 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. chapter 10 is amended to read:

9 CHAPTER 10. ~~BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION SERVICES~~

10 EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AREAS

11 § 601. POLICY

12 It is the policy of the State to ~~allow and encourage supervisory unions to~~
13 ~~create boards of cooperative education services~~ educational service areas to
14 provide shared programs and services on a regional and statewide level.

15 ~~Formation of a board of cooperative education services shall be designed to~~
16 ~~build upon the geographically focused cooperative regions used by Vermont~~
17 ~~superintendents as of July 1, 2024;~~ It is the intent of the General Assembly that
18 cooperative educational service areas are utilized by member supervisory
19 unions to maximize the impact of available dollars through collaborative
20 funding; reduce duplication of programs, personnel, and services; and

1 contribute to ~~equalizing~~ the equalization of educational opportunities for all
2 pupils.

3 § 602. DEFINITIONS

4 As used in this chapter:

5 (1) “Educator” means any:

6 (A) individual licensed under chapter 51 of this title, the majority of
7 whose employed time in a public school district, supervisory union, or ~~board of~~
8 cooperative ~~education services~~ educational service area is assigned to furnish
9 to students direct instructional or other educational services, as defined by rule
10 of the Standards Board, or who is otherwise subject to licensing as determined
11 by the Standards Board; or

12 * * *

13 (3) “Cooperative educational service area (CESA)” means an
14 association of supervisory unions created pursuant to this chapter to deliver
15 shared programs and services to complement the educational programs of
16 member supervisory unions in a cost-effective manner. A CESA shall be a
17 body politic and corporate with the powers and duties afforded them under this
18 chapter.

19 § 603. CREATION OF ~~BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION~~

20 ~~SERVICES~~ EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AREAS;

21 ORGANIZATION; SECRETARY APPROVAL

1 (a) Establishment of ~~boards of cooperative education services~~ educational
2 service areas. ~~When the boards of two or more supervisory unions vote to~~
3 ~~explore the advisability of entering into a written agreement to provide shared~~
4 ~~programs and services, the interested boards shall meet and discuss the terms~~
5 ~~of any such agreement. At this meeting or a subsequent meeting, the~~
6 ~~participating boards may enter into a proposed agreement to form an~~
7 ~~association of supervisory unions to deliver shared programs and services to~~
8 ~~complement the educational programs of member supervisory unions in a cost-~~
9 ~~effective manner. An association formed pursuant to this chapter shall be~~
10 ~~known as a board of cooperative education services (BOCES) and shall be a~~
11 ~~body politic and corporate with the powers and duties afforded them under this~~
12 ~~chapter.~~ Supervisory unions are arranged into the following cooperative
13 educational service areas:

14 (1) CESA No. 1 is formed of the member supervisory unions of:

15 (2) CESA No. 2 is formed of the member supervisory unions of:

16 (3) CESA No. 3 is formed of the member supervisory unions of:

17 (4) CESA No. 4 is formed of the member supervisory unions of:

18 (5) CESA No. 5 is formed of the member supervisory unions of:

19 (6) CESA No. 6 is formed of the member supervisory unions of:

20 (7) CESA No. 7 is formed of the member supervisory unions of:

1 (b) ~~Articles of agreement~~ Bylaws. ~~Agreements to form a BOCES pursuant~~
2 ~~to this chapter shall take the form of articles of agreement and shall serve as~~
3 ~~the operating agreement for a BOCES. Agreements shall include a cost-~~
4 ~~benefit analysis outlining the projected financial savings or enhanced~~
5 ~~outcomes, or both, that the parties expect to realize through shared services or~~
6 ~~programs. No agreement or subsequent amendments shall take effect unless~~
7 ~~approved by the member supervisory union boards and the Secretary of~~
8 ~~Education. The Secretary shall approve articles of agreement if the Secretary~~
9 ~~finds that the formation of the proposed BOCES is in the best interests of the~~
10 ~~State, the students, and the member supervisory unions and aligns with the~~
11 ~~policy set forth in section 601 of this title, subject to the limitations of~~
12 ~~subsection (d) of this section. Each CESA shall establish bylaws to serve as~~
13 ~~the operating agreement of the CESA. At a minimum, the ~~articles of~~~~
14 ~~agreement bylaws shall state:~~

- 15 (1) the names of the participating supervisory unions;
- 16 (2) the mission, purpose, and focus of the ~~BOCES~~ CESA;
- 17 (3) the programs or services to be offered by the ~~BOCES~~ CESA;
- 18 (4) the financial terms and conditions of membership of the ~~BOCES~~
19 CESA, including any applicable membership fee;
- 20 (5) the service fees for member supervisory unions and the service fees
21 for nonmember supervisory unions, as applicable;

1 (6) the detailed procedure for the preparation and adoption of an annual
2 budget with carryforward provisions;

3 (7) ~~the method of termination of the BOCES and the withdrawal of~~
4 ~~member supervisory unions, which shall include the apportionment of assets~~
5 ~~and liabilities;~~ [Repealed.]

6 (8) the procedure for ~~admitting new members and for~~ amending the
7 ~~articles of agreement~~ bylaws;

8 (9) the powers and duties of the board of directors of the ~~BOCES~~ CESA
9 to operate and manage the association, including:

10 (A) board meeting attendance requirements;

11 (B) consequences for failure to attend a board meeting;

12 (C) a conflict-of-interest policy; and

13 (D) a policy regarding board member salaries or stipends; and

14 (10) any other matter not incompatible with law that the member
15 supervisory unions consider necessary ~~to the formation of the BOCES.~~

16 (c) Board of directors. A ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall be managed by a board of
17 directors, which shall be composed of one person appointed annually by each
18 member supervisory union board. Appointed persons shall be members of a
19 member supervisory union board or the superintendent or designee of the
20 member supervisory union. Each member of the ~~BOCES~~ CESA board of
21 directors shall be entitled to a vote. No member of the board of directors of a

1 ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall serve as a member of a board of directors or as an officer
2 or employee of any related for-profit or nonprofit organization. The board of
3 directors shall elect a chair from its members and provide for such other
4 officers as it may determine are necessary. The board of directors may also
5 establish subcommittees and create board policies and procedures as it may
6 determine are necessary. The board of directors shall meet not fewer than four
7 times annually. Each member of the board of directors shall provide updates
8 on the activities of the ~~BOCES~~ CESA on a quarterly basis to the member's
9 appointing supervisory union board at an open board meeting.

10 (d) ~~Number of BOCESs. There shall be not more than seven BOCESs~~
11 ~~statewide. Supervisory unions shall not be a member of more than one~~
12 ~~BOCES but may seek services as a nonmember from other BOCESs.~~

13 [Repealed.]

14 § 604. POWERS OF ~~BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION~~

15 ~~SERVICES~~ EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AREAS

16 (a) In addition to any other powers granted by law, a ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall
17 have the power to provide educational programs, services, facilities, and
18 professional and other staff that, in its discretion, best serve the needs of its
19 members, including professional development, curriculum coordination and
20 development, and transportation. A ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall follow all applicable
21 State and federal laws in its provision of services, including Section 504 of the

1 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, and the Individuals with
2 Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1400–1482. At a minimum, a CESA
3 shall provide services in the following areas to its members:

4 (1) special education, including implementation and maintenance of
5 tiered systems of support and the provision of low incidence, high-cost
6 services;

7 (2) business and administrative services; and

8 (3) union school district creation consultation and facilitation.

9 (b) A ~~BOCES~~ may CESA shall employ an executive director who shall
10 serve under the general direction of the board and who shall be responsible for
11 the care and supervision of the ~~BOCES~~ CESA. The board shall annually
12 evaluate the executive director’s performance and effectiveness in
13 implementing the programs, policies, and goals of the ~~BOCES~~ CESA. The
14 executive director shall not serve as a board member, officer, or employee of
15 any related for-profit or nonprofit organization.

16 (c) A ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall be a body politic and corporate and shall have
17 standing to sue and be sued to the same extent as a school district. A ~~BOCES~~
18 CESA may enter into contracts for the purchase of supplies, materials, and
19 services and for the purchase or leasing of land, buildings, and equipment as
20 considered necessary by the board of directors. Section 559 of this title shall
21 apply to the procurement of services or items with costs that exceed

1 \$40,000.00, as well as high-cost construction contracts, as defined by
2 subsection 559(b) of this title.

3 (d) The board of directors of a ~~BOCES~~ CESA may apply for State, federal,
4 or private grants, for which a ~~BOCES~~ CESA may be otherwise eligible, to
5 obtain funds necessary to carry out the purpose for which the ~~BOCES~~ CESA is
6 established. Nothing in this chapter is intended to create an entitlement to
7 federal funds distributed by the Agency of Education to local education
8 agencies.

9 § 605. FINANCING, BUDGETING, AND ACCOUNTING

10 (a) Education cooperative fund. A ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall establish and
11 manage a fund to be known as an education cooperative fund. All monies
12 contributed by the member school districts and all grants or gifts from the
13 federal government, State government, charitable foundations, private
14 corporations, or any other source shall be deposited into the fund.

15 (b) Treasurer.

16 (1) A ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall appoint a treasurer who may be a treasurer of
17 a member school district and who shall be sworn in before entering the duties
18 of the office.

19 (2) The treasurer may, subject to the direction of the board of directors,
20 receive and disburse all money belonging to the board without further
21 appropriation.

1 (3) The treasurer shall keep financial records of cash receipts and
2 disbursements and shall make those records available to the board of directors
3 upon request.

4 (4) The board of directors shall ensure that its blanket bond covers a
5 newly appointed treasurer before the treasurer enters upon the duties of the
6 office. In lieu of a blanket bond, a ~~BOCES~~ CESA may choose to provide
7 suitable crime insurance coverage. The board of directors may pay reasonable
8 compensation to the treasurer for services rendered and shall evaluate the
9 treasurer’s performance annually.

10 (c) Financial accounting system. A ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall use the uniform
11 chart of accounts and financial reporting requirements used by supervisory
12 unions as its financial accounting system.

13 (d) Audit. Annually, a ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall cause an independent audit to
14 be made of its financial statements consistent with generally accepted
15 governmental auditing standards and shall discuss and vote to accept the audit
16 report at an open meeting of the board. The board shall transmit a copy of
17 each audit to the boards of its member supervisory unions.

18 (e) Annual statement. Annually, a ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall prepare financial
19 statements, including:

20 (1) a statement of net assets; and

21 (2) a statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in net assets.

1 (f) Budget. A The board of ~~cooperative education services~~ a CESA shall
2 adopt a budget prior to the beginning of the fiscal year for which the budget is
3 adopted.

4 (g) Loans. A ~~BOCES~~ CESA may, upon approval of its members, negotiate
5 or contract with any person, corporation, association, or company for a loan
6 not to exceed the difference between the anticipated revenues for the current
7 fiscal year for the budget of the ~~BOCES~~ CESA and the amount credited to date
8 to said budget in order to pay current obligations. Such loan shall be liquidated
9 within six months thereafter from monies subsequently credited to said budget.
10 The total principal, interest, and fees to be paid on such loan shall not exceed
11 the total amount of the authorized budget for the same length of time.

12 § 606. ANNUAL REPORT; PUBLIC INFORMATION

13 (a) The board of a ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall prepare an annual report concerning
14 the affairs of the ~~BOCES~~ CESA and have it printed and distributed to the
15 boards of the member supervisory unions. The annual report shall include, at a
16 minimum:

17 (1) information on the programs and services offered by the ~~BOCES~~
18 CESA, including information on the cost-effectiveness of such programs and
19 services and progress made towards achieving the objectives and purposes set
20 forth in the articles of agreement; and

21 (2) audited financial statements and the independent auditor's report.

1 (b) A ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall maintain an internet website that makes the
2 following information available to the public at no cost:

3 (1) a list of the members of the board of directors of the ~~BOCES~~ CESA;

4 (2) copies of approved minutes of open meetings held by the board of
5 the ~~BOCES~~ CESA;

6 (3) a copy of the articles of agreement and any subsequent amendments;

7 and

8 (4) a copy of the annual report required under subsection (a) of this
9 section.

10 § 607. EMPLOYMENT

11 (a) A ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall be considered to be a public employer and may
12 employ personnel, including educators, to carry out the purposes and functions
13 of the board. Annually, the board of a ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall conduct an area
14 survey of the salaries of the educators and staff employed by the ~~BOCES~~'s
15 CESA's member supervisory unions and school districts.

16 (b) No person shall be eligible for employment by a ~~BOCES~~ CESA as an
17 educator unless the person is appropriately licensed by the Standards Board for
18 Professional Educators pursuant to chapter 51 of this title.

19 (c) A person employed by a ~~BOCES~~ CESA as an educator shall be a
20 participant in the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System pursuant to
21 chapter 55 of this title.

1 (d) A person who is employed by a ~~BOCES~~ CESA and who is not educator
2 shall be a participant in the Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement
3 System pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 125.

4 (e) Educators employed by a ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall be entitled to organize
5 pursuant to chapter 57 of this title.

6 (f) Employees employed by a ~~BOCES~~ CESA and who are not educators
7 shall be entitled to organize pursuant to 21 V.S.A. chapter 22.

8 (g) Educators and employees who are employed by a ~~BOCES~~ CESA shall
9 be provided health care benefits pursuant to chapter 61 of this title.

10 Sec. 2. REPEAL

11 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 168, Sec. 3 (transition; report) is repealed.

12 Sec. 3. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 168, Sec. 4, as amended by 2025 Acts and
13 Resolves No. 72, Sec. 7, is further amended to read:

14 Sec. 4. ~~BOCES~~ CESA GRANT PROGRAM; APPROPRIATION

15 (a) There is established the ~~Boards of Education Services~~ Educational
16 Service Area Start-up Grant Program, to be administered by the Agency of
17 Education, from funds appropriated for this purpose, to award grants to ~~enable~~
18 ~~the formation of boards of cooperative education services (BOCES) formed~~
19 ~~pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 10 after July 1, 2024~~ the CESAs created in 16
20 V.S.A. § 603(a) to assist with start-up costs. ~~Supervisory unions~~ CESAs shall
21 be eligible for a single \$10,000.00 grant ~~after two or more boards vote to~~

1 ~~explore the advisability of forming a board of cooperative education services~~
2 ~~pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 603(a).~~ Grants may be used for start-up and formation
3 costs, including the development of ~~proposed articles of agreement~~ bylaws.
4 ~~Grants shall be awarded to only one supervisory union within each group of~~
5 ~~supervisory unions exploring the formation of a BOCES.~~

6 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of 16 V.S.A. § 4025 to the contrary, the
7 sum of \$70,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund to the Agency of
8 Education in fiscal year 2025 to fund the ~~Boards of Cooperative Education~~
9 ~~Services~~ Educational Service Area Start-up Grant Program created in
10 subsection (a) of this section. Unexpended appropriations shall carry forward
11 into the subsequent fiscal year and remain available for use for this purpose.

12 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 261a is amended to read:

13 § 261a. DUTIES OF SUPERVISORY UNION BOARD

14 * * *

15 (b) Virtual merger. In order to maximize the impact of available funding
16 and resources, and to reduce duplication of educational programs, personnel,
17 and services, whenever legally permissible, supervisory unions are encouraged
18 to reach agreements with other supervisory unions jointly to provide any
19 service or perform any duty under this section pursuant to section 267 of this
20 title, or to form ~~boards of cooperative education services~~ educational service
21 areas pursuant to chapter 10 of this title. Agreements between supervisory

1 unions are not subject to the waiver requirement of subdivision (a)(8) of this
2 section. Agreements shall include a cost-benefit analysis outlining the
3 projected financial savings or enhanced outcomes, or both, that the parties
4 expect to realize through shared services or programs.

5 * * *

6 Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 1691a is amended to read:

7 § 1691a. DEFINITIONS

8 As used in this chapter:

9 (1) “Administrator” means an individual licensed under this chapter the
10 majority of whose employed time in a public school, school district,
11 supervisory union, or ~~board of cooperative education services~~ educational
12 service area is assigned to developing and managing school curriculum,
13 evaluating and disciplining personnel, or supervising and managing a public
14 school system or public school program.

15 * * *

16 (10) “Teacher” means an individual licensed under this chapter the
17 majority of whose employed time in a public school district, supervisory
18 union, or ~~board of cooperative education services~~ educational service area is
19 assigned to furnish to students direct instructional or other educational
20 services, as defined by rule of the Standards Board, or who is otherwise subject
21 to licensing as determined by the Standards Board.

1 Sec. 6. 16 V.S.A. § 1931(20) is amended to read:

2 (20) “Teacher” means any licensed teacher, principal, supervisor,
3 superintendent, or any professional licensed by the Vermont Standards Board
4 for Professional Educators who is regularly employed, or otherwise contracted
5 if following retirement, for the full normal working time for the teacher’s
6 position in a public day school or school district within the State, or in any
7 school or teacher-training institution located within the State, controlled by the
8 State Board of Education, and supported wholly by the State; or in certain
9 public independent schools designated for such purposes by the Board in
10 accordance with section 1935 of this title; or who is regularly employed by a
11 ~~board of cooperative education services~~ educational service area created in
12 accordance with chapter 10 of this title. In all cases of doubt, the Board shall
13 determine whether any person is a teacher as defined in this chapter. It does
14 not mean a person who is teaching with an emergency license.

15 Sec. 7. 24 V.S.A. § 5051(10) is amended to read:

16 (10) “Employee” means the following persons employed on a regular
17 basis by a school district, by a supervisory union, or by a ~~board of cooperative~~
18 ~~education services~~ educational service area for not fewer than 1,040 hours in a
19 year and for not fewer than 30 hours a week for the school year, as defined in
20 16 V.S.A. § 1071, or for not fewer than 1,040 hours in a year and for not fewer
21 than 24 hours a week year-round; provided, however, that if a person who was

1 employed on a regular basis by a school district as either a special education or
2 transportation employee and who was transferred to and is working in a
3 supervisory union or a ~~board of cooperative education services~~ educational
4 service area in the same capacity pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 261a(a)(6) or (8)(E)
5 and if that person is also employed on a regular basis by a school district
6 within the supervisory union, then the person is an “employee” if these criteria
7 are met by the combined hours worked for the supervisory union and school
8 district. The term also means persons employed on a regular basis by a
9 municipality other than a school district for not fewer than 1,040 hours in a
10 year and for not fewer than 24 hours per week, including persons employed in
11 a library at least one-half of whose operating expenses are met by municipal
12 funding:

13 * * *

14 Sec. 8. 16 V.S.A. § 1981 is amended to read:

15 § 1981. DEFINITIONS

16 As used in this chapter unless the context requires otherwise:

17 * * *

18 (8) “School board negotiations council” means, for a supervisory
19 district, its school board, and, for school districts within a supervisory union or
20 ~~board of a cooperative education services~~ educational service area, the body
21 comprising representatives designated by each school board within the

1 supervisory union or ~~board of cooperative education services~~ supervisory
2 union board within each cooperative educational service area and by the
3 supervisory union board or board of a cooperative ~~education services~~
4 educational service area to engage in professional negotiations with a teachers’
5 or administrators’ organization.

6 (9) “Teachers’ organization negotiations council” or “administrators’
7 organization negotiations council” means the body comprising representatives
8 designated by each teachers’ organization or administrators’ organization
9 within a supervisory district, supervisory union, or ~~board of cooperative~~
10 ~~education services~~ educational service area to act as its representative for
11 professional negotiations.

12 Sec. 9. 21 V.S.A. § 1722 is amended to read:

13 § 1722. DEFINITIONS

14 As used in this chapter:

15 * * *

16 (18) “School board negotiations council” means, for a supervisory
17 district, its school board, and, for school districts within a supervisory union or
18 ~~board of a cooperative education services~~ educational service area, the body
19 comprising representatives designated by each school board within the
20 supervisory union or ~~board of cooperative education services~~ supervisory
21 union board within a cooperative educational service area and by the

1 supervisory union board or ~~board of cooperative education services~~ educational
2 service area to engage in collective bargaining with their school employees’
3 negotiations council.

4 (19) “School employees’ negotiations council” means the body
5 comprising representatives designated by each exclusive bargaining agent
6 within a supervisory district, supervisory union, or ~~board of cooperative~~
7 ~~education services~~ educational service area to engage in collective bargaining
8 with its school board negotiations council.

9 * * *

10 (21) “Municipal school employee” means an employee of a supervisory
11 union, school district, or ~~board of cooperative education services~~ educational
12 service area who is not otherwise subject to 16 V.S.A. chapter 57 (labor
13 relations for teachers and administrators) and who is not otherwise excluded
14 pursuant to subdivision (12) of this section.

15 * * *

16 Sec. 10. 16 V.S.A. § 2101 is amended to read:

17 § 2101. DEFINITIONS

18 As used in this chapter:

19 * * *

20 (3) “School employer” means a supervisory union or school district as
21 those terms are defined in section 11 of this title, or a ~~board of cooperative~~

1 ~~education services~~ educational service area formed pursuant to chapter 10 of
2 this title.

3 **Sec. 11. CESA TRANSITION**

4 (a) Within 30 days following the passage of this act, each member
5 supervisory union board of each CESA created under 16 V.S.A. § 603(a) shall
6 appoint a person to serve on the board of directors of the applicable CESA
7 pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 603(c).

8 (b) Within 45 days following the passage of this act, the superintendent of
9 the supervisory union with the highest aggregate average daily membership of
10 each CESA created under 16 V.S.A. § 603(a) shall call a meeting of the
11 directors of the CESA at which each CESA board shall elect a chair and other
12 necessary officers.

13 * * * Union School District Exploration and Formation * * *

14 **Sec. 12. UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT CREATION CONSULTATION AND**
15 **FACILITATION**

16 (a) Facilitator. Each CESA created under 16 V.S.A. § 603(a) shall employ
17 not less than one union school district formation facilitator (facilitator), who
18 shall be responsible for organizing and facilitating study committees to study
19 the advisability of forming a union school district.

20 (b) Study committees.

1 (1) Each facilitator shall group school districts within the CESA's
2 member supervisory unions together to form study committees to study the
3 advisability of forming a union school district. The facilitator shall group
4 school districts together according to the following criteria:

5 (A) total average daily membership of school districts forming a
6 study committee shall be approximately 4,000 students, as practical;

7 (B) school districts shall be contiguous; and

8 (C) school districts on the same study committee may be members of
9 different supervisory unions.

10 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a school
11 district shall participate in the study committee it is assigned to by the
12 facilitator.

13 (3) A study committee formed pursuant to this section shall adhere to
14 the processes and requirements of 16 V.S.A. chapter 11, subchapter 2.

15 (A) A study committee formed pursuant to this section may identify
16 necessary or advisable school districts, as those terms are used in 16 V.S.A.
17 § 708(b)(1) and (2), that are not members of the study committee or are not
18 members of the CESA, or both, and shall work with the applicable facilitator
19 or facilitators to adjust study committee membership as necessary.

20 (B) In addition to the requirements of 16 V.S.A. chapter 11,
21 subchapter 2, a study committee shall also explore the advisability and

1 feasibility of the contemplated new union school district including a regional
2 middle or high school, or both. A regional middle or high school contemplated
3 pursuant to this section shall offer resident students increased educational
4 opportunities and access to career technical education.

5 * * * Effective Date * * *

6 Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATE

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