

1 H.454

2 Representatives Toof of St. Albans Town and Houghton of Essex Junction  
3 move that the bill be amended as follows:

4 First: In Sec. 2, 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 1, by striking out  
5 subdivision (b)(2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision  
6 (b)(2) to read as follows:

7 (2) Nonvoting members. The following nine members shall be  
8 nonvoting members of the Commission who shall be appointed on or before  
9 July 15, 2025:

10 (A) Nonlegislative members. There shall be five nonlegislative,  
11 nonvoting members, all of whom shall have extensive experience working  
12 within the Vermont public education system. Appointing authorities shall  
13 coordinate to ensure that, to the extent possible, each of the five nonvoting  
14 members represents a different geographic region of the State.

15 (i) Two members, appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of  
16 whom shall be a retired or former Vermont superintendent of a supervisory  
17 union with multiple member school districts and one of whom shall be either a  
18 retired or former Vermont school business manager or a retired or former  
19 school board member.

1                   (ii) Two members, appointed by the Committee on Committees,  
2                   one of whom shall be a retired or former Vermont superintendent and one of  
3                   whom shall be a retired or former Vermont school business manager.

4                   (iii) One member, appointed by the Governor, who shall be a  
5                   retired or former Vermont superintendent.

6                   (B) Legislative members. There shall be four legislative, nonvoting  
7                   members.

8                   (i) Two current members of the House of Representatives, not all  
9                   from the same political party or same school district, who shall be appointed  
10                  by the Speaker of the House.

11                  (ii) Two current members of the Senate, not all from the same  
12                  political party or same school district, who shall be appointed by the  
13                  Committee on Committees.

14                  Second: In Sec. 2, 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 183, Sec. 1, in subsection  
15                  (j), following “to be composed of the” by striking out the word “five” and  
16                  inserting in lieu thereof the word “nine”

17                  Third: By adding a new reader assistance heading and section to be Sec. 2b  
18                  to read as follows:

19                               \* \* \* School District Voting Ward Task Force \* \* \*

1      Sec. 2a. SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTING WARD TASK FORCE; REPORT;  
2                      MAPS

3            (a) Creation. There is created the School District Voting Ward Task Force  
4            to create voting district wards within the new school districts contemplated by  
5            this act, to ensure school board membership is apportioned in such a manner as  
6            to achieve substantially equal weighting of the votes of all voters in the choice  
7            of school board members.

8            (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following  
9            members who shall have substantial understanding of Vermont geography,  
10           trade, travel, social interaction, and Vermont's public education system:

11                (1) the Secretary of State or designee, who shall be the chair;

12                (2) three members, who shall be appointed by the Vermont Municipal  
13            Clerk Treasurer Association;

14                (3) two members, appointed by the Vermont School Boards  
15            Association; and

16                (4) the Director of the Vermont Center for Geographic Information or  
17            designee.

18            (c) Powers and duties. On or before October 15, 2025, the Task Force shall  
19            consult with the school district boundary subcommittee created in Sec. 2 of this  
20            act to gain an understanding of the status of the work of the subcommittee and  
21            to determine whether the subcommittee has one or more boundary proposals

1 ready for the Task Force to begin the work of creating voting wards. Using the  
2 boundary proposals of the subcommittee, the Task Force shall, following the  
3 principles of apportionment followed by the legislative apportionment board,  
4 make recommendations to the General Assembly to achieve voting districts  
5 within each school district that are compact, contiguous, and drawn to achieve  
6 substantially equal weighting of votes and that meet the requirements of  
7 applicable State and federal law. If at any time during the work of the Task  
8 Force the General Assembly enacts new school district boundaries, or it  
9 appears clear the General Assembly is focused on only one proposal, the Task  
10 Force shall focus its work and recommendations to align with the work of the  
11 General Assembly. The Task Force’s recommendations shall include:

12 (1) the optimal number of school board members per school board to  
13 maximize public representation and democratic input while maintaining  
14 effective school board size; and

15 (2) boundaries for school district voting wards within each school  
16 district, with alternative options if necessary, including detailed maps clearly  
17 and unambiguously delineating ward boundaries that respect current municipal  
18 boundary lines.

19 (d) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical,  
20 and legal assistance of the Secretary of State’s office and the technical  
21 assistance of the Agency of Digital Services, Vermont Center for Geographic

1 Information. The Task Force may contract for such expert services as may be  
2 necessary to carry out its duties.

3 (e) Meetings.

4 (1) The Secretary of State shall call the first meeting of the Task Force  
5 to occur on or before July 15, 2025.

6 (2) The Secretary of State shall be the chair.

7 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

8 (4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2026.

9 (f) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Task Force shall be  
10 entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted  
11 under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 10 meetings. These payments shall  
12 be made from monies appropriated to the Secretary of State's office.

13 Fourth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 61b to read as follows:

14 Sec. 61b. PROPERTY TAX CLASSIFICATIONS IMPLEMENTATION  
15 REPORT

16 The Commissioner of Taxes shall study the implementation of new property  
17 tax classifications under this act and identify any further actions required by  
18 the Department of Taxes, Vermont municipalities, and the General Assembly  
19 to successfully implement the new tax classification system on the timeline  
20 established by this act. The issues considered by the Commissioner shall  
21 include any needed changes to existing forms, whether new forms or taxpayer

1 filings are needed, and how the Department could identify parcels with  
2 dwelling units that do not have an affiliated homestead declaration or landlord  
3 certificate on file. On or before December 15, 2026, the Commissioner of  
4 Taxes shall submit a study report detailing the Commissioner's findings under  
5 this section to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate  
6 Committee on Finance.

7 Fifth: In Sec. 95, effective dates, by striking out subsection (a) in its  
8 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (a) to read as follows:

9 (a) This section and the following sections shall take effect on passage:

10 (1) Sec. 1 (findings; intent; plan);

11 (2) Sec. 2 (Commission on the Future of Public Education);

12 (3) Sec. 2a (School District Voting Ward Task Force);

13 (4) Sec. 29 (16 V.S.A. § 4011(f));

14 (5) Sec. 30 (adult education funding report);

15 (6) Sec. 44 (transportation reimbursement guidelines);

16 (7) Sec. 45 (inflationary measures; prekindergarten; reports);

17 (8) Sec. 53 (homestead declaration sample form);

18 (9) Sec. 61a (tax classification data; transition);

19 (10) Sec. 61b (property tax classifications implementation report)

20 (11) Sec. 63 (RAD transition; annual progress report);

21 (12) Sec. 64 (RAD stakeholder working group);

- 1           (13) Sec. 91 (correction of inadvertently removed language);
- 2           (14) Sec. 92 (minimum debt for tax sales); and
- 3           (15) Sec. 94 (property tax credit late fee).