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H.955

Representatives Olson of Starksboro and Yacovone of Morristown move that the bill be amended by adding one new section to be Sec. 13a to read as follows:

Sec. 13a. 16 V.S.A. § 564 is added to read:

§ 564. SCHOOL CLOSURES IN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICTS

(a) Before closing a school that operates grades prekindergarten through 12, or any subset of such grades, a union school district shall obtain the affirmative vote of the electorate of the towns served by the school.

(b) Not less than 60 days prior to the vote required pursuant to this section, the school board shall post on the school board’s website a report with information on and an analysis of the educational value to students if they remain in the school facing closure compared to the school where the students are proposed to be educated after the school is closed, including the educational value to students from households with low income, students who receive special education services, and other marginalized students. The report shall describe the financial, operational, transportation, capital cost, and other impacts of the school closure proposal. The report shall also address the proposal’s impact on district staff, including direct teaching staff, professional and other support staff, and administrative staff. The school board shall enable district residents to comment on the proposal using the comment feature of a

- 1 school board's website and shall hold a public hearing to discuss the school
- 2 closure proposal not less than 30 days before the vote required pursuant to this
- 3 section.