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Representatives Olson of Starksboro, Yacovone of Morristown, Burke of Brattleboro, and Priestley of Bradford 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) A union school district board may, after notice and an opportunity for hearing, close a school that operates grades prekindergarten through 12, or any subset of such grades, upon concluding that closure is in the best interests of students and the towns served by the school.

(b) The union school district board shall consider the educational value to students if they remain in the school facing closure compared to the school where the students are proposed to be moved, including the educational value to students from households with low income, students who receive special education services, and other marginalized students. The board shall consider evidence relating to the financial, operational, transportation, capital cost, and other impacts of the proposal. The school board shall also consider the proposal’s impact on district staff, including direct teaching staff, professional and other support staff, and administrative staff.

(c) A resident of the union school district may have the board’s decision to close a school made pursuant to this section reviewed on the record under Rule

- 1 75 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure. The review shall be to the
- 2 Superior Court of Washington County, or, in the discretion of an appellant, the
- 3 Superior Court in the county where the school proposed to be closed is located.