

1 H.454

2 Representative Donahue of Northfield moves that the bill be amended in
3 Sec. 1, findings; intent; plan, by striking out subsection (b) in its entirety and
4 inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

5 (b) Intent; plan.

6 (1) To ensure each student is provided substantially equal educational
7 opportunities that will prepare them to thrive in a 21st-century world, it is the
8 intent of the General Assembly to work strategically, intentionally, and
9 thoughtfully to ensure that each incremental change made to Vermont's public
10 education system provides strength and support to its only constitutionally
11 required governmental service.

12 (2) It is further the intent of the General Assembly to:

13 (A) in the 2026 session:

14 (i) enact new, larger school district boundaries that would be
15 effective July 1, 2026;

16 (ii) enact updates to career and technical education governance
17 systems, both at the local and statewide levels, that are reflective of the larger
18 public education governance transformation to new, larger school districts;

19 (iii) create a coordinated and coherent statewide strategy for career
20 and technical education that is responsive to students and the State's workforce

1 needs and that provides opportunities for more integration between career and
2 technical education and traditional high school work;

3 (iv) enact student-centered updates to career and technical
4 education funding within a foundation formula that does not create competition
5 between sending schools and career and technical education programs for
6 available funds; and

7 (v) create voting wards within each school district to ensure
8 school board membership is apportioned in such a manner as to achieve
9 substantially equal weighting of the votes of all voters in the election of school
10 board members;

11 (B) provide or enable the provision of the necessary staffing,
12 resources, and support to the Agency of Education, the Secretary of State's
13 Office, town clerks, and other integral parties to the election system to hold the
14 first school board member elections within the newly created school districts in
15 a special election in March 2027; and

16 (C) provide or enable the provision of the necessary staffing,
17 resources, and support to the Agency of Education, State Board of Education,
18 and other integral parties to ensure that the necessary guidance and funding is
19 in place to allow for a smooth and successful transition between the operation
20 of Vermont's current 119 school districts to the new, larger school districts,

- 1 with new school districts assuming responsibility for the education of all
- 2 resident students on July 1, 2028.