

1 S.220

2 Senator Gulick moves that the report of the Committee on Finance be
3 amended as follows:

4 First: In Sec. 1, allowable growth in education spending for fiscal years
5 2028 and 2029, in subsection (a), following “whichever is greater”, by
6 inserting “and excluding from education spending voter-approved bond
7 payments toward principal and interest”

8 Second: By striking out Sec. 2, effective date, in its entirety and inserting in
9 lieu thereof the following:

10 Sec. 2. TUITION CAP FOR FISCAL YEARS 2028 AND 2029

11 Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. §§ 823, 824(b) and (c), 825, and 827(b) and (d),
12 and any other provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal years 2028 and 2029
13 only, a school district that pays tuition for its resident students pursuant to
14 16 V.S.A. chapter 21 shall pay an amount not to exceed the average announced
15 tuition of Vermont union elementary schools and union high schools, as
16 applicable, for fiscal year 2027.

17 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 828 is amended to read:

18 § 828. TUITION TO APPROVED SCHOOLS; AGE; APPEAL

19 (a) A school district shall not pay the tuition of a student except to:
20 (1) a public school located in Vermont;
21 (2) an approved independent school that:

1 (A) is located in Vermont;

2 (B) is approved under section 166 of this title on or before July 1,

3 2025;

4 (C) is located within either:

5 (i) a supervisory district that does not operate a public school for

6 some or all grades as of July 1, 2024; or

7 (ii) a supervisory union with one or more member school districts

8 that does not operate a public school for some or all grades as of July 1, 2024;

9 (D) had at least 25 percent of its student enrollment composed of

10 students attending on a district-funded tuition basis pursuant to chapter 21 of

11 this title during the 2023–2024 school year; **and**

12 (E) complies with the minimum class size requirements contained in

13 subdivision 165(a)(9) of this title and State Board rule; provided, however, that

14 if a school is unable to comply with the class size minimum standards due to

15 geographic isolation or a school has developed an implementation plan to meet

16 the class size minimum requirements, the school may ask the State Board to

17 grant it a waiver from this subdivision (E), which decision shall be final;

18 (F) agrees that for the purposes of access to public records, the school

19 is a public agency and shall comply with the provisions of 1 V.S.A. chapter 5,

20 subchapter 3; and

4 (3) an independent school meeting education quality standards;

5 (4) a tutorial program approved by the State Board;

6 (5) an approved education program;

7 (6) a public school located in another state; or

8 (7) a therapeutic approved independent school located in Vermont or

9 another state or country that is approved under the laws of that state or country.

10 * * *

11 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

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