

1 H.347

2 Introduced by Representative Fisher of Lincoln

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; supervisory unions

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to direct the state board of education  
7 to consolidate supervisory unions into 16 supervisory unions with  
8 approximately the same boundaries as the technical center regions.

9 An act relating to consolidation of supervisory unions

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 261 is amended to read:

12 § 261. ORGANIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT OF SUPERVISORY  
13 UNIONS

14 (a) The state board shall ~~review on its own initiative or when requested as~~  
15 ~~per subsection (b) of this section and may regroup the~~ organize school districts,  
16 except for interstate school districts, into 16 supervisory unions of the state or  
17 create new supervisory unions in such manner as to afford increased efficiency  
18 or greater convenience and economy and to facilitate K-12 curriculum  
19 planning and coordination as changed conditions may seem to require that, to  
20 the extent possible, shall have the same boundaries as the technical center

1 service regions created pursuant to section 1531 of this title, to promote  
2 increased efficiency, convenience, and cost-effectiveness, and to facilitate  
3 K-12 curriculum planning.

4 (b) Any school district ~~which~~ that has so voted at its annual school district  
5 meeting, if ~~said~~ the meeting has been properly warned regarding such a vote,  
6 may apply to the state board of education for adjustment of the ~~existing~~  
7 supervisory union of which it is a component district. The state board shall  
8 give timely consideration to such requests and may regroup the school districts  
9 of the area so as to ensure reasonable supervision of all public schools ~~therein~~.

10 (c) The state board may designate any school district, including a unified  
11 union district, as a supervisory district if it will offer schools in grades K-12  
12 and is large enough to support the planning and administrative functions of a  
13 supervisory union.

14 (d) Upon application by a supervisory union board, the state board may  
15 waive any requirements of chapter 5 or 7 of this title with respect to the  
16 supervisory union board structure, board composition, or board meetings, or  
17 the staffing pattern of the supervisory union, if it can be demonstrated that such  
18 a waiver will result in efficient and effective operations of the supervisory  
19 union, will not result in any disproportionate representation, and is otherwise  
20 in the public interest.

1       Sec. 2. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

2           (a) The state board of education shall publish proposed supervisory union  
3 boundaries in the manner and for the purposes set forth in Sec. 1 of this act on  
4 or before September 1, 2013. The board shall provide an opportunity for  
5 written public comment following publication of the proposal. The board shall  
6 announce the final boundaries of the new supervisory unions on or before  
7 January 1, 2014.

8           (b) The new supervisory unions are established on July 1, 2014, and all  
9 previously existing supervisory unions shall cease to exist.

10          (c) Within 30 days after the state board of education announces the new  
11 supervisory unions under subsection (a) of this section, the school board of  
12 each school district within the state, except interstate school districts, shall  
13 select from its current membership representatives to the board of the new  
14 supervisory union as follows:

15           (1) The school board of a district that employs no teacher shall select  
16 one representative.

17           (2) All other school boards shall select:

18           (A) One member if fewer than 4,000 people live in the district.

19           (B) Two members if more than 3,999 and fewer than 8,000 people  
20 live in the district.

21           (C) Three members if more than 7,999 people live in the district.

1       (d) Each school district shall submit the names of the members chosen  
2       under subsection (c) of this section to the state board of education.  
3       Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, within 15 days after the  
4       state board receives notification that every school district within the boundaries  
5       of a new supervisory union has selected representatives, the commissioner or  
6       the commissioner's designee shall call an initial meeting of the representatives  
7       to that new supervisory union to elect a chair and other necessary officers to  
8       serve until the new supervisory union's first annual election of officers.

9       (e) After the initial meeting required in subsection (d) of this section, each  
10       group of representatives is authorized to and shall conduct business through  
11       June 30, 2014 for the limited purposes of organizing and transitioning to the  
12       new supervisory union and may enter into any necessary agreements for those  
13       purposes. On July 1, 2014, the representatives shall be the members of the  
14       board of the new supervisory union until the new supervisory union's first  
15       annual election of officers.

16       (f) Nothing in this act shall affect the validity of any contract entered into  
17       by a supervisory union or school district prior to July 1, 2014.

18       Sec. 3. STATUTORY REVISION

19       On or before January 1, 2014, legislative council staff shall prepare a draft  
20       bill incorporating all statutory amendments necessary to effect transition to and  
21       operation of the new supervisory unions.

1       Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

2           (a) Sec. 1 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

3           (b) All other sections of this act shall take effect on passage.