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H.732

Introduced by Representatives Sibia of Dover, Eastman of Orwell, and
Hebert of Vernon

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; union schools; union school districts; withdrawal

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to permit, on or
before July 1, 2019, a school district to withdraw from a union school district
without approval by the remaining members of the school district.

An act relating to withdrawal from a union school district

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

Sec. 1. TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO WITHDRAW FROM UNION

SCHOOL DISTRICT

(a) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 721a, a school district which is a member
of a union school district on July 1, 2019 may withdraw from the union school
district without approval by the remaining members of the school district upon
the following conditions:

(1) At least one year has elapsed since the union school district became
a body politic and corporate as provided in 16 V.S.A. § 706g.

1 (2) On or before July 1, 2019, a majority of the voters of a school
2 district that is a member of a union school district present and voting at a
3 school district meeting duly warned for that purpose votes to withdraw from
4 the union school district. The vote shall be certified by the clerk of the school
5 district to the Secretary of State, who shall record the certificate in his or her
6 office and shall give notice of the vote to the Secretary of Education and to the
7 other members of the union school district.

8 (3) The State Board approves the withdrawal based on a
9 recommendation from the Secretary of Education.

10 (b) In making its recommendation, the Secretary of Education shall assess
11 whether students in the withdrawing district would attend a school that is in
12 compliance with the rules adopted by the State Board pertaining to educational
13 programs, and whether it is in the best interests of the State, the students, and
14 the districts remaining in the union district for the union to continue to exist.
15 The State Board shall consider the recommendation of the Secretary and any
16 other information it deems appropriate. The State Board shall hold a public
17 meeting within 60 days of receiving the recommendation of the Secretary at
18 which it shall make its determination, and shall provide due notice of this
19 meeting to the Secretary and all members of the union school district. Within
20 10 days of the meeting, the State Board shall notify the Secretary and all
21 members of the union school district of its decision. If the State Board

1 approves the withdrawal, the State Board shall declare the membership of the
2 withdrawing member in the union school district terminated as of July 1
3 immediately following, or as soon after July 1 as the financial obligations of
4 the withdrawing member have been paid to, or an agreement has been made
5 with, the union school district in an amount to satisfy those obligations. The
6 State Board shall file the declaration with the Secretary of State, the clerk of
7 the withdrawing member, and the clerk of the union school district concerned.

8 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.