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Study Grants – Enabling Legislation Act 156 (2012), Secs 2, 4, 5, and 9

Sec. 2. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES FOR CONSULTING SERVICES; INITIAL EXPLORATION OF JOINT ACTIVITY; SUPERVISORY UNIONS; SCHOOL DISTRICTS; SUNSET

(a) From the education fund, the commissioner of education shall reimburse up to \$5,000.00 of fees paid by two or more supervisory unions or two or more school districts for facilitation, legal, and other consulting services necessary for initial exploration of the value of providing services or performing duties jointly, which may include community engagement and lead to the identification of possible joint action, including the provision of shared programming, the operation of a joint contract school, the merger of supervisory unions, or the creation of union school districts pursuant to 16 V.S.A. chapter 11, subchapter 4 or the variations authorized by Secs. 15, 16, and 17 of this act and by No. 153 of the Acts of the 2009 Adj. Sess. (2010).

(b) This section is repealed on July 1, 2017.

Sec. 4. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES FOR CONSULTING SERVICES; JOINT ACTIVITY OTHER THAN MERGER; SUPERVISORY UNIONS; SCHOOL DISTRICTS; SUNSET

(a) From the education fund, the commissioner of education shall reimburse up to \$10,000.00 of fees paid by two or more supervisory unions or two or more school districts for:

(1) legal and other consulting services necessary to analyze in detail the advisability of providing services or performing duties jointly that will result in a measurable increase in opportunities for students and a decrease in costs; or

(2) transitional costs necessary to enter into and implement agreements to provide those services or perform those duties jointly; or

(3) both subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.

(b) Each group of supervisory unions or school districts shall forward invoices to the commissioner on a quarterly basis. The commissioner shall reimburse one-half of the total amount reflected in each set of invoices and the

remaining one-half upon submission to the commissioner of a written statement of the entities' analysis and conclusions, provided that no payment shall cause the total amount paid to exceed the \$10,000.00 limit.

(c) A group of supervisory unions or school districts that receives reimbursement under this section shall not be eligible to receive additional reimbursement under Sec. 5 or 9 of this act for the same proposal.

(d) This section is repealed on July 1, 2017.

Sec. 5. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES FOR CONSULTING SERVICES; MERGER; SUPERVISORY UNIONS; SUNSET

(a) From the education fund, the commissioner of education shall reimburse up to \$20,000.00 of fees paid by two or more supervisory unions for legal and other consulting services necessary to analyze the advisability of the merger into a fewer number of supervisory unions and to prepare a petition to the state board of education requesting adjustment of supervisory union boundaries.

(b) Each group of supervisory unions shall forward invoices to the commissioner on a quarterly basis. The commissioner shall reimburse one-half of the total amount reflected in each set of invoices and the remaining one-half upon submission of either a petition to the state board requesting that the boundaries be redrawn or a written statement of the entities' analysis supporting preservation of the current boundaries, provided that no payment shall cause the total amount paid to exceed the \$20,000.00 limit.

(c) Any transition facilitation grant funds paid pursuant to Sec. 6 of this act shall be reduced by the total amount of reimbursement provided under this section.

(d) This section is repealed on July 1, 2017.

Sec. 9. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES FOR CONSULTING SERVICES; MERGER; SCHOOL DISTRICTS; SUNSET

(a) From the education fund, the commissioner of education shall reimburse up to \$20,000.00 of fees paid by a study committee established under 16 V.S.A. § 706 for legal and other consulting services necessary to analyze the advisability of creating a union school district or a unified union school district and to prepare the report required by 16 V.S.A. § 706b.

(b) The study committee shall forward invoices to the commissioner on a quarterly basis. The commissioner shall reimburse one-half of the total amount reflected in each set of invoices and the remaining one-half upon submission of

the final report pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 706c, provided that no payment shall cause the total amount paid to exceed the \$20,000.00 limit.

(c) Any transition facilitation grant funds paid to the union school board pursuant to Sec. 11 of this act shall be reduced by the total amount of reimbursement provided under this section.

(d) A regional education district (“RED”) receiving incentives pursuant to Sec. 4 of No. 153 of the Acts of the 2009 Adj. Sess. (2010) as amended by this act is not eligible to receive reimbursement under this section.

(e) This section is repealed on July 1, 2017.