

S.130 Senate Miscellaneous Bill

(As passed out of House Education – with draft 6.1 amendments, April 14, 2017)

This bill proposes to: (1) create a study committee to consider and make recommendations on the criteria to be used by the State Board of Education for the approval of an independent school.

* * * Approved Independent Schools Study Committee * * *

Sec. 1. APPROVED INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS STUDY COMMITTEE

(a) Creation. There is created an Approved Independent Schools Study Committee to consider and make recommendations on the criteria to be used by the State Board of Education for designation as an “approved” independent school.

(b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following ten members: (1) one current member of the House of Representatives who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House; (2) one current member of the Senate who shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees; (3) the Chair of the State Board of Education or designee; (4) the Secretary of Education or designee; (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendent’s Association or designee; (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or designee; (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont Independent Schools Association or designee; (8) two representatives of approved independent schools, who shall be chosen by the Executive Director of the Vermont Independent Schools Association; and (9) the Executive Director of the Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators or designee.

(c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall consider and make recommendations on the criteria to be used by the State Board of Education for designation as an “approved” independent school, including the following criteria: (1) the school’s enrollment policy and any limitation on a student’s ability to enroll; (2) how the school should be required to deliver special education services and which categories of these services; and (3) the scope and nature of financial information and special education information that should be required to be reported by the school to the State Board or Agency of Education.

(d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Education. **(e) Report.** On or before January 15, 2018, the Committee shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with its findings and any recommendations.

(e) Report. On or before January 15, 2018, the Committee shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with its findings and any recommendations, including recommendations for any amendments to legislation.

(f) Meetings. (1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the Committee to occur on or before May 30, 2017. (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting. (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 16, 2018.

(g) Reimbursement. (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for no more than seven meetings. (2) Other members of the Committee who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than seven meetings.