

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2016**

Bill Number: H. 859 Name of Bill: An Act Relating to Special Education

Agency/ Dept: Education Author of Bill Review: Bill Talbott

Date of Bill Review: May 11, 2016 Related Bills and Key Players School Districts and Supervisory Unions

Status of Bill: (check one): ☐ Upon Introduction ☐ As passed by 1<sup>st</sup> body ☒ As passed by both

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**Recommended Position:**

☒ Support ☐ Oppose ☐ Remain Neutral ☐ Support with modifications identified in #8 below

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**Analysis of Bill**

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1. **Summary of bill and issue it addresses.** Secs. 1 & 2 of this bill updates the payment provisions of the State's Special Education funding system to align with current law. Sec. 3 directs the agency to procure services for evaluation the special education funding system and recommend options for a different system using \$90,000 of funds already in the Agency's budget for FY 17. Sec. 4 directs the agency to procure services to conduct reviews for up to 10 supervisory unions in the way they conduct special education and recommend best practices and efficiencies. It appropriates \$75,000 for the Education Fund and permits up to another \$100,000 of any FY16 special education aid money that might be available for reversion. Sec. 5 gives the effective dates.
2. **Is there a need for this bill?** Yes, it provides needed updates to the law, causes a needed review of the current special education funding formula, and provides consulting services to supervisory unions on special education best practices. In addition, the reviews in Sec. 4 will satisfy a reporting requirement under Act 46 of 2015. This report will provide a set of recommended best practices, which will support merging systems.
3. **What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?** Minimal impact. The Act provides funding where needed. The work will be done by contractors.
4. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** None.
5. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** We expect favorable impacts on school districts and supervisory unions to the extent an improved special education funding formula is developed and recommendations for best practices are found helpful.
6. **Other Stakeholders:** None.

**6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?**

*Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word document to [Jahala.Dudley@vermont.gov](mailto:Jahala.Dudley@vermont.gov) & [Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov](mailto:Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov)*

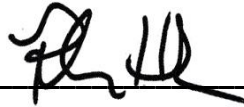
**6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?**

**7. Rationale for recommendation:** Provided in # 1 & 2 above.

**8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill:** None.

**9. Will this bill create a new board or commission AND/OR add or remove appointees to an existing one? If so, which one and how many?** No.

Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 5/12/16