



To: Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Senate Committee on Education  
From: Neil Odell, President, Vermont School Boards Association  
Re: H.449  
Date: April 29, 2021

I am writing regarding the composition of the Pension Benefits, Design and Funding Task Force, in Sec. 10(b)(1) of H.449. Currently, the Task Force does not include representation from the employer side of the Vermont Teachers Retirement System, i.e. school boards. We respectfully request the addition of a member to the Task Force, appointed by the Vermont School Boards Association.

It is vitally important to have balanced representation of employers and employees on the Task Force. Currently, the Vermont State Employees Retirement System employer representatives are reflected on the Task Force in H.449 as passed by the House, with the inclusion of the Commissioner of Human Resources, or their designee, among others. The Senate Government Operations Committee's proposal dated April 28, 2021 changes the composition of the Task Force and does not include clear employer representation for the Vermont State Employees Retirement System or the Vermont Teachers Retirement System.

The Task Force's work on the benefits, design, and funding of retirement and retiree health benefit plans for the Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System is of utmost importance to school districts as employers. Representation of school districts as employers on the Task Force is crucial because any recommendation coming out of the Task Force will have an impact on local school districts, their workforce, local costs and bargaining/negotiation considerations, and local taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration. VSBA would welcome the opportunity to attend your committee meetings in connection with this request.

cc: Senate Committee on Rules