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H.76

Representative Jewett of Ripton moves that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. TASK FORCE ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN LABOR
RELATIONS FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS;
REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created a Task Force on Dispute Resolution in Labor Relations for Teachers and Administrators to study the issue of impasse resolution in labor negotiations for school teachers and administrators.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following seven members:

(1) the President of the Vermont – National Education Association or designee;

(2) two individuals with experience in labor relations designated by the Vermont – National Education Association;

(3) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or designee;

(4) two individuals with experience in labor relations designated by the Vermont School Boards Association; and

(5) a mediator mutually agreed upon by the other members of the Task Force on or before July 15, 2015. If the parties are unable to mutually agree

1 upon a mediator by July 15, 2015, the Vermont Labor Relations Board shall
2 appoint a mediator to serve on the Task Force.

3 (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall evaluate the existing statutes
4 governing labor relations for school teachers and administrators, and shall
5 develop recommendations for legislative changes that will facilitate the
6 resolution of a dispute or impasse during labor negotiations. In particular, the
7 Task Force shall:

8 (1) evaluate the existing practices and statutory provisions related to
9 labor negotiations for school teachers and administrators and identify specific
10 barriers to the effective resolution of a dispute or impasse during negotiations;

11 (2) examine the historic frequency of strikes and contract impositions in
12 Vermont and the resulting impacts on local communities and schools;

13 (3) examine the historic frequency of labor negotiations continuing past
14 the expiration date of the previous contract and identify any resulting impacts
15 on the parties created by the failure to conclude negotiations prior to the
16 expiration date;

17 (4) assess the relative merits of various alternative methods for the
18 resolution of a dispute or impasse during labor negotiations and whether such
19 alternatives could improve the collective bargaining process for school teachers
20 and administrators in Vermont; and

1 (5) assess the relative merits of various methods for encouraging parties
2 in labor negotiations to promptly resolve a dispute or impasse if it continues
3 past the expiration date of the existing collective bargaining agreement.

4 (d) Report. On or before January 15, 2016, the Task Force shall submit a
5 written report to the House Committees on Education and on General, Housing
6 and Military Affairs and the Senate Committees on Education and on
7 Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs with its findings and a
8 recommendation for legislative action to amend 16 V.S.A. chapter 57 (labor
9 relations for teachers and administrators) facilitate the resolution of a dispute or
10 impasse during labor negotiations. The Task Force’s recommendation shall be
11 for legislation that would have an effective date of July 1, 2018 and shall be
12 applicable to negotiations for collective bargaining agreements taking effect on
13 or after July 1, 2019.

14 (e) Meetings.

15 (1) The mediator appointed to the Task Force shall call the first meeting
16 of the Task Force to occur on or before August 15, 2015.

17 (2) The mediator appointed to the Task Force shall serve as the Chair.

18 (3) Five members of the Task Force membership shall constitute a
19 quorum.

20 (4) The Task Force shall meet at least once per month until it submits its
21 report to the General Assembly pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

1 (5) The Task Force shall cease to exist on January 30, 2016.

2 (f) Costs. All expenses of the mediator appointed to the Task Force shall
3 be borne jointly by the other six members of the Task Force.

4 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.