

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1036

AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL COOPERATION AMONG SCHOOL

Title: DISTRICTS.

Vote Date: 3/22/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/17/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Allows for boards of education to “tuition out” K-8 students to schools in other towns, rather than only high school students as permitted under current law. This results in allowing any town to “tuition out” all its public-school students and not operate its own district or be part of a regional district.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Charlene Russell-Tucker, Acting Commissioner, State Department of Education:

The bill would allow districts to designate an elementary, middle, or high school in another district for their students to attend if they do not have one. Essentially, this would allow a district to outplace all their students without going through the regionalization process. The Department is committed to assisting districts with opportunities to regionalize and share services, but we believe this language is too permissive. Furthermore, it would allow districts to have their students attend elementary, middle and high school in multiple towns without a coherent strategy to determine what is best for the students, both academically and socially. The Department cannot support the proposal as written, but we are very willing to continue encouraging the use of shared services and continue to highlight district best practices.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

There are no sources of support for this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

There are no sources of opposition for this bill.

Reported by: Dallas Emerle

Date: 3/23/2021