

January 17, 2023



Dear Alison,

After the first full week of the legislative session, we have news of a fast moving bill that would suspend the school district budget approval language in 16 VSA Section 563(11)(D). Please read below for more information about the bill and how it could affect upcoming budget ballot language.

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#### HOT TOPICS

##### Fast Track Bill Suspending School District Budget Approval Language Passes the House

[H.42](#), which includes a provision that would suspend the requirement for the mandatory, specified school district budget ballot language in [16 VSA Section 563\(11\)\(D\)](#), passed the House today.

H.42 also provides temporary authority until July 1, 2024 that: (1) permits a municipal legislative body to move the date of the annual municipal meeting, apply the Australian ballot system to annual and special meetings, and hold electronic informational meetings in the days preceding the annual meeting; and (2) permits a public body to hold electronic meetings without designating a physical location and without requiring staff to be physically present at that location.

Although nothing is certain in the legislative process, it is very likely that the bill will be approved by the Legislature and become effective upon passage. VSBA will inform you promptly if the bill becomes law.

#### 2023 Summer Intern

The VSBA is seeking a part-time summer intern whose work will focus on communications. Please [click here](#) for the Communications Internship job description and application information. Applications are being accepted through the end of February. Questions: contact Sandra Cameron [scameron@vmsba.org](mailto:scameron@vmsba.org)

#### EQUITY

##### VSBA Receives Grant to Support School Board Affinity Group(s)

We're excited to announce that the McClure Foundation has awarded the VSBA a grant to support the formation of school board affinity group(s).

Because it's essential that board members of color have a voice in identifying and removing barriers and developing solutions to create more equitable student outcomes, VSBA's first affinity group will bring together school board members who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC).

The purpose of an affinity group is to share stories, experiences, ideas, successes and laughter, and to provide a place for healing and growth that allows for racial equity transformation. Additionally, the affinity group will provide a place to network and make state-wide connections on issues of educational equity.

The grant funds will allow VSBA to hire an experienced group facilitator to help the group develop a charter, adopt guidelines for participation and find connections, support and inspiration. More information will be provided in an upcoming weekly email.

#### SAVE THE DATE



#### 2/2/23 Webinar

##### How School Boards Can Support Student Achievement and Close Gaps

Noon - 1:00pm

How does your board...

- Ensure the district is accountable for the well-being and success of all students?
- Assure high expectations for student learning?
- Demonstrate responsible and inclusive governance?
- Engage and involve your local community?
- Create conditions for the success of all students and staffs?

[REGISTER HERE](#) FREE WEBINAR

If you have any thoughts about the VSBA Weekly Updates, please let us know. We always welcome your feedback.

Thank you for your dedicated service as school board members. **What you do makes a difference!**

Sincerely,

Sue Ceglowski  
VSBA Executive Director



Our mailing address is:  
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