

Vermont Home Education Network  
Update – I proposed an additional change to the AOE  
April 20, 2023

You have got to love the legislative process, well, at least I do. Yet again, I went to the State House and by the time I got there the schedule had changed. The AOE lawyer's testimony on the minimum course of study had been pushed to next week. So, no vote on the bill tomorrow will take place as that has been pushed to next week as well.

Still, it was not a total waste of my time. The committee saw that I was there. I was able to make a couple of comments and let them know that I will be there every time the home study portion of this bill is on the schedule. Senator Campion thanked me for being there. So this was me putting a face to the advocacy. All that and I get to dress up a bit ... a far cry from the exercise pants and t-shirts that I usually wear!

So, in consultation with another homeschooler, I have proposed another change to the AOE. That we strike what is currently in the bill about the 175 days of instruction on the minimum course of study and use this language instead:

An attestation that home study programs will provide (a) to each enrolled student learning experiences in the minimum course of study as described in Section 906 of this Act and (b) the equivalent of 175 days of instruction per year.

This language is just very concise and very clear and I do not know what the AOE thinks of this yet. Even if they reject it, the bill is still way better than what we have now.

It is hard to describe to those outside of the process that this will change very little of what parents do to educate their own children. But that it will allow for more control and freedom over the decision making of what families choose to do and I believe they will grow beyond what they do now.

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