



## **Vermont Home Education Network**

Update on Home Study legislation

May 3, 2023

Hello Retta,

**On Friday, April 28th, H.461 passed out of Senate Ed.** It was on the floor of the Senate Tuesday, May 2nd. It was then sent to Senate Appropriations to take a look at it. Home study in the bill has no appropriations to look at but there are other pieces in this miscellaneous ed bill that do. I expect the bill will be back to the Senate floor in a day or so.

I also want you to know that my last edit concerning the minimum course of study **did not make it into the final wording.** I did all I could and thought I had done enough. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the committee meeting where it was voted out of committee without that last edit. I was in New Hampshire watching my granddaughter, Riah who is about to turn 2. She was sitting on my lap while we both watched the committee vote. In true homeschooler fashion while I was listening, she wanted to learn the names of the committee members. As she pointed, I said their names over and over again.

Initially, I was upset, but you know what, life is too short to be upset about this. The new language for the home study law is nothing short of amazing. It will open up the creativity of homeschooling families because they will no longer be conforming to the same drummer who works at the AOE. This is as **homeschooling\*** should be:

***~ Parent directed child led education - from unschooling to school at home ~***

Sen Terry Williams sits on the Senate Ed committee and was very willing to communicate with me about the bill. He was also willing to do an amendment on the Senate floor to get that final edit but I decided no. Voltaire is correct in at least one thing: ***the perfect (best) is the enemy of the good.*** I decided good was good enough. **This language, as is, needs to pass the full Senate with out any further turmoil.**

I have nothing but **gratitude** in my heart for this process but I do intend to follow up with the chair of Senate Ed and find out why the final edit was not there. If for nothing more than my own education in lobbying for a bill. If I ever find out, I will let you know.

Once this passes out of the Senate, the House has to agree to the changes the Senate made to the bill. This is one more place that changes can be made to the bill. If the House does not agree then a special committee would be created to hammer out consensus language. I do not expect there to be any issues with the home study language as the changes that were made were minimal. Yet, another reason to not amend the bill further. I will watch over this process as well.

**Then on to the Governor's desk the bill will go ... and I will follow.**

*\* I want to acknowledge that the term 'homeschooling' can have different meanings to the different families that do it. Some see unschooling as different from homeschooling. I get it. But for my advocacy purposes, those outside of this movement only see it as homeschooling. So, I use homeschooling as the broad term for what families do when they do not send their kids to a public or private school but to choose to keep them at home to provide them with learning experiences.*

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