

Vermont Home Education Network

Update on Home Study legislations

April 27, 2023

Dear Homeschoolers,

My day at the State House started at 7:30 am this morning and I was there until 1:30 pm. The Senate Ed committee has 5 members. Senators Campion, Weeks, Gulick, Hashim, and Williams. I was able to connect to three of them today. My activities today were:

- I met with Sen. Williams at 7:30 and had a good conversation with him. He is supportive.
- I talked with Sen. Campion, mostly about getting a final edit into the home study portion of the bill. He is supportive of getting this bill out of committee as well.
- I was emailing with Emily Simmons from the AOE where she put in writing that the AOE was on board with the edit and then I forwarded that conformation on to Sen Campion.
- Lastly, I was able to talk with Sen Gulick as she will be the reporter of the bill on the Senate floor. She confirmed her support of the bill and that she felt all were supportive as well.

The past couple of weeks has been spent in getting all the ducks in a row! And although, it is not hard to juggle all these individual pieces, by the end of it I am tired as so much of the time is spent in waiting between these "moments" of advocacy.

Tomorrow, 4/28/2023, on the Senate Ed agenda at 3:45m should be committee discussion and **a possible vote on H.461**. I expect them to vote it out of committee whereupon it goes to the full Senate for the second and third readings. I imagine it will be a week or more for it to be voted on by the full Senate.

After that House Ed and Senate Ed have to agree on the changes. Then and only then will it be sent to the Governor for his signature.

I am not letting up on the shepherding of this bill through the process. A lot could still go sideways but it will not do so from my lack of effort! Below, is the final edit to the bill. It is simply a rewording of what was in the bill concerning the minimum course of study.

An attestation that each child being enrolled in home study will be provided:

(A) 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 and

(C) for students with documented disabilities, a parent or guardian must attest to providing adaptations to support the student in the home study program.

This is more succinct and reminiscent to what was in the law before the changes in 2006. Should this make it all way to the Governor's signature, going forward you will no longer submit a course of study to the AOE but you must agree that you will provide learning experiences based on the subject areas of 906, the minimum course of study statute.

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