

1 H.643

2 Introduced by Representatives Clark of Vergennes, Baker of West Rutland,  
3 Donaghy of Poultney, Helm of Castleton, McDonald of Berlin,  
4 Morley of Barton, Myers of Essex, O'Donnell of Vernon and  
5 Turner of Milton

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Education; sectarian schools; tuition

9 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to permit school districts to use  
10 public funds to pay tuition to approved independent schools with a religious  
11 affiliation if the religious aspects of the school are incidental to the school's  
12 curriculum and academic mission, and the school does not require students for  
13 whom the district has paid tuition to enroll in religion classes or participate in  
14 religious observations.

15 An act relating to permitting school districts to pay tuition to sectarian  
16 schools

17 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

18 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 828 is amended to read:

19 § 828. TUITION TO APPROVED SCHOOLS, AGE, APPEAL;

20 SECTARIAN SCHOOLS

1       (a) A school district shall not pay the tuition of a pupil except to a public  
2 school, an approved independent school, an independent school meeting school  
3 quality standards, a tutorial program approved by the state board, an approved  
4 education program, or an independent school in another state or country  
5 approved under the laws of that state or country, nor shall payment of tuition  
6 on behalf of a person be denied on account of age; provided, a district may pay  
7 tuition under the provisions of this chapter, including section 827, to an  
8 approved independent school with a religious affiliation if:

9           (1) the department determines that the religious aspects of the school are  
10 incidental to the school's curriculum and academic mission; and

11           (2) the school does not require students for whom the district has paid  
12 tuition to enroll in religion classes or participate in religious observations.

13       (b) Unless otherwise provided, a person who is aggrieved by a decision of a  
14 school board relating to eligibility for tuition payments, the amount of tuition  
15 payable, or the school he or she may attend, may appeal to the state board and  
16 its decision shall be final.

17       Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18       This act shall take effect on passage and shall apply to tuition paid in the  
19 2010–2011 academic year and after.