

1 S.138

2 Senator Hashim moves that the Senate concur in the House proposal of
3 amendment with further proposal of amendment as follows:

4 First: By adding a new section to be Sec. 5a. to read as follows:

5 Sec. 5a. WORKING GROUP ON STUDENT PROTECTIONS FROM

6 HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOLS; REPORT

7 (a) Creation. There is created the Working Group on Student Protections
8 from Harassment and Discrimination in Schools to study and give
9 recommendations for how to address harassment and discrimination
10 experienced by students.

11 (b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following
12 members:

13 (1) the Secretary of Education or designee;

14 (2) the Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission
15 or designee;

16 (3) the Executive Director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic
17 and Sexual Violence or designee;

18 (4) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education
19 Association or designee;

20 (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or
21 designee;

1 (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals’ Association or
2 designee;

3 (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association
4 or designee;

5 (8) the Executive Director of Outright Vermont or designee;

6 (9) the Executive Director of Racial Equity or designee;

7 (10) the Executive Director of the Vermont chapter of the National
8 Association of Social Workers or designee; and

9 (11) the Executive Director of Vermont Legal Aid.

10 (c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall study the current
11 protections for students against harassment and discrimination in schools and
12 make recommendations for legislative action to ensure Vermont students have
13 the same protections from harassment and discrimination as provided to
14 Vermont citizens in the workplace and other sites of public accommodations.
15 In conducting its analysis, the Working Group shall consider and make
16 recommendations on the following issues:

17 (1) eliminating the severe and pervasive standard for harassment and
18 discrimination for students in educational institutions;

19 (2) compulsory educational attendance requirements for students who
20 have been victims of harassment; and

1 (3) the resources required for schools to develop harassment prevention
2 initiatives as well as supports for students who have experienced harassment.

3 (d) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative,
4 technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Education.

5 (e) Report. On or before December 1, 2023, the Working Group shall
6 submit a written report to the House Committees on General and Housing and
7 on Education and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing
8 and General Affairs and on Education with its findings and any
9 recommendations for legislative action.

10 (f) Meetings.

11 (1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the
12 Working Group to occur on or before July 15, 2023.

13 (2) The Working Group shall select a chair from among its members at
14 the first meeting.

15 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

16 (4) The Working Group shall cease to exist on February 1, 2024.

17 Second: In Sec. 6, effective dates, by striking out subsection (a) in its
18 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

19 (a) This section and Secs. 5 and 5a shall take effect on July 1, 2023.