

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Date:

3 Subject: Education; miscellaneous

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make
5 miscellaneous changes to education law.

6 An act relating to miscellaneous changes to education law

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

8 * * * State Board of Education * * *

9 Sec. 1. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STAFFING AND
10 COMPENSATION; STUDY

11 On or before September 1, 2023, the Agency of Education shall hire an
12 independent third party to review and report on the operations of the State
13 Board of Education. The independent third party shall make recommendations
14 for compensation and staffing structures that will provide the best support to
15 allow the Board to successfully carry out its duties and responsibilities, as well
16 as make membership opportunities more accessible in order to ensure members
17 represent the State’s geographic, gender, racial, and ethnic diversity. In
18 conducting its review and making its recommendations, the independent third
19 party shall conduct an analysis of the staffing and compensation structures of
20 Vermont boards and commissions with similar responsibilities to the State

1 Board of Education, including appellate duties, rulemaking authority, strategic
2 planning and statewide policy development, and general governance and
3 accountability oversight over a particular subject matter or jurisdiction. The
4 report shall include an analysis of the source and structure of the
5 administrative, legal, and fiscal staffing support other boards and commissions
6 receive. It shall also include an analysis of the compensation structure and
7 source for both the boards and commission members themselves, as well as for
8 the staff members providing support. On or before December 1, 2024, the
9 Agency shall submit a written copy of the report to the House and Senate
10 Committees on Education. In conducting its review, the independent third
11 party shall consult the State Board of Education, Agency of Education, and any
12 stakeholders it deems relevant to its analysis.

13 * * * Course Offerings and Academic Standards * * *

14 Sec. 2. STATEWIDE COURSE OFFERINGS IN GRADES

15 KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12; REPORT

16 On or before January 15, 2024, the Agency of Education shall issue a
17 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education detailing the
18 breadth of course offerings across the State and the differences between the
19 offerings within each supervisory union on a union-to-union basis as well as a
20 district-to-district basis if there are large differences in course offerings
21 between districts within the same supervisory union.

1 Sec. 3. PROFICIENCY-BASED LEARNING; STUDY COMMITTEE

2 (a) Creation. There is created the Proficiency-Based Learning Study
3 Committee to study proficiency-based learning and proficiency-based
4 graduation requirements as they are used in Vermont, as required by the
5 Agency of Education, Education Quality Standards (CVR 22-000-003), and to
6 make recommendations for whether proficiency-based learning is the most
7 effective way to ensure Vermont students attain rigorous standards in high-
8 quality programs, or whether there are other systems of instruction,
9 assessment, grading, and academic reporting that would better serve Vermont
10 students.

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

13 (1) the Secretary of Education or designee;

14 (2) the Chair of the State Board of Education or designee;

15 (3) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or
16 designee;

17 (4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association
18 or designee;

19 (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Board Association or
20 designee; and

1 (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education
2 Association or designee.

3 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study proficiency-based
4 learning and proficiency-based graduation requirements, including the
5 following issues:

6 (1) the statewide implementation of proficiency-based learning and
7 proficiency-based graduation requirements and to what extent there is
8 consistency in application across all supervisory unions;

9 (2) other states' experience with proficiency-based learning;

10 (3) alternatives to proficiency-based learning, including other systems of
11 instruction, assessment, grading, and academic reporting; and

12 (4) recommendations for Vermont assessment standards and the efforts
13 needed to ensure successful and substantially equal implementation across
14 Vermont.

15 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
16 and legal assistance of the Vermont Agency of Education.

17 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2024, the Committee shall submit a
18 written report to House and Senate Committees on Education with its findings
19 and any recommendations for legislative action.

20 (f) Meetings.

1 from prequalification and determine if state regulations and oversight in those
2 areas are also substantially aligned with Vermont regulations. On or before
3 January 15, 2024, the Agency shall issue a written report to the Senate and
4 House Committees on Education with its findings, including any
5 recommendations for legislative action to increase high quality prekindergarten
6 education opportunities in school districts on the Vermont border.

7 Sec. 6. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 1. WORKING GROUP ON THE STATUS OF LIBRARIES IN
9 VERMONT; REPORT

10 (a) Creation. There is created the Working Group on the Status of
11 Libraries in Vermont to study and report on the statewide status of Vermont’s
12 libraries. The Working Group is formed with the intent of strengthening and
13 supporting libraries of all sizes and improving library services for the public.

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

- 16 (1) the State Librarian;
- 17 (2) the President of the Vermont Library Association or designee;
- 18 (3) the Executive Director of the Vermont Humanities Council or
19 designee;

1 (4) three representatives of public libraries, who shall be from libraries
2 of different sizes and from different regions of the State, appointed by the State
3 Librarian;

4 (5) two representatives of public school libraries, who shall be from
5 schools of different sizes and from different regions of the State, appointed by
6 the Vermont School Library Association;

7 (6) two representatives of college and university libraries, appointed by
8 the President of the College and Special Libraries Section of the Vermont
9 Library Association; and

10 (7) one public library trustee, appointed by the President of the Friends
11 and Trustees Section of the Vermont Library Association.

12 (c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall study:

13 (1) library services for specific segments of the Vermont population,
14 including senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, youths and children,
15 immigrant and migrant communities, and people living in poverty;

16 (2) the role that libraries play in emergency preparedness, cultural
17 diversity and inclusion, public health and safety, community identity and
18 resiliency, economic development, and access to public programs and services;

19 (3) the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on library operations and
20 services; ~~and~~

1 (4) whether current law provides adequate protections for libraries from
2 firearm violence; and

3 ~~(4)~~(5) the current overall status of Vermont libraries, which may include
4 information related to programming, collections, facilities, technology, and
5 staffing.

6 (A) Programming. The Working Group may study the types and
7 frequency of library programs, attendance at library programs, and whether
8 library programs are meeting community needs. The study of programming
9 may include an assessment of public engagement and outreach surrounding
10 library programming as well as the opportunities for nonlibrary programs and
11 groups to access Vermont libraries.

12 (B) Collections. The Working Group may study the size and
13 diversity of library holdings and assess the strengths and gaps in materials
14 available to Vermonters. The study of collections may include an assessment
15 of how libraries may best share resources across differing libraries and
16 communities, whether libraries offer community-specific resources, and
17 whether libraries maintain special collections or historical artifacts.

18 (C) Facilities. The Working Group may study whether library
19 facilities and buildings could be improved with regard to energy efficiency,
20 accessibility, flexibility, human health and safety, historic preservation, and
21 intergenerational needs.

1 (D) Technology. The Working Group may study whether Vermont
2 libraries have sufficient access to basic technological resources, ~~cyber security~~
3 cybersecurity resources, high-speed Internet, electronic catalogs, interlibrary
4 loan and other interoperable systems, and appropriate hardware and software.

5 (E) Staff. The Working Group may study staffing levels at Vermont
6 libraries, whether staffing levels are sufficient to meet community needs,
7 whether library staff compensation and benefits are sufficient, how libraries
8 rely on volunteers, and what resources are available for workforce
9 development and training of library staff.

10 (d) Public input. As part of the study and report, the Working Group shall
11 solicit feedback from the general public and library users around the State.
12 The Working Group may examine models for library management and
13 organization in other states, including the formation of statewide service
14 networks.

15 (e) Data to be used. The data used in the analysis of library services and
16 operations may be from 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
17 Postpandemic data may also be used to assess the status of library services and
18 operations.

19 (f) Consultation with the Board of Libraries. The Working Group may
20 solicit feedback from the Board of Libraries.

1 (g) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative,
2 technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Libraries.

3 (h) Report. On or before November 1, 2023, the Working Group shall
4 submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Education. The report
5 shall contain:

6 (1) specific and detailed findings and proposals concerning the issues set
7 forth in subsection (c) of this section, including recommendations for
8 legislative action regarding firearm and weapon safety on library property;

9 (2) recommendations for updating the statutes, rules, standards, and the
10 governance structures of Vermont libraries to ensure equitable access for
11 Vermont residents, efficient use of resources, and quality in the provision of
12 services;

13 (3) recommendations related to the funding needs of Vermont libraries,
14 including capital, ongoing, and special funding; and

15 (4) any other information or recommendations that the Working Group
16 may deem necessary.

17 (i) Meetings.

18 (1) The State Librarian shall be the Chair of the Working Group.

19 (2) The Chair shall call the first meeting of the Working Group to occur
20 within 45 days after the effective date of this act.

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

1 (4) The Working Group shall cease to exist on December 1, 2023.

2 (j) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Working Group
3 shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as
4 permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 12 meetings. These
5 payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the Department of
6 Libraries.

7 (k) Appropriation. The sum of \$12,000.00 is appropriated to the
8 Department of Libraries from the General Fund in fiscal year 2022 for per
9 diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses for members of the
10 Working Group.

11 * * * Driver Education * * *

12 **Sec. 7. REGIONAL STUDENT DRIVER EDUCATION CLINICS; PILOT**
13 **PROJECT; APPROPRIATION**

14 (a) Model program. On or before October 1, 2023, the Agency of
15 Education and the Department of Motor Vehicles, in partnership with
16 interested school districts, shall establish a model regional student driver clinic
17 program to provide the required minimum 6 hours of behind-the-wheel
18 instruction by a certified driver education instructor as required by State Board
19 of Education rule.

