

1 S.220

2 Senators Champion, Gulick, Hardy, Hashim, Weeks, and Williams move that  
3 the report of the Committee on Education be amended by adding a reader  
4 assistance heading and one new section to be Sec. 17a to read as follows:

5 \* \* \* School Library Material Selection \* \* \*

6 Sec. 17a. 16 V.S.A. § 1624 is added to read:

7 § 1624. SCHOOL LIBRARY MATERIAL SELECTION POLICY

8 (a) Each school board and each approved independent school shall develop,  
9 adopt, ensure the enforcement of, and make available in the manner described  
10 under subdivision 563(1) of this title a library material selection policy and  
11 procedures for the reconsideration of materials. The policy and procedures  
12 shall affirm the importance of intellectual freedom and be guided by the First  
13 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the American Library Association’s  
14 Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statement, and Vermont’s  
15 Freedom to Read Statement.

16 (b) In order to ensure a student’s First Amendment rights are protected and  
17 all students’ identities are affirmed and dignity respected, the policy and  
18 procedures required under subsection (a) of this section shall prohibit the  
19 removal of school library materials for the following reasons:

20 (1) partisan approval or disapproval;

1           (2) the author’s race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation,  
2           political views, or religious views;

3           (3) school board members’ or members of the public’s discomfort,  
4           personal morality, political views, or religious views;

5           (4) the author’s point of view concerning the problems and issues of our  
6           time, whether international, national, or local;

7           (5) the race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, political  
8           views, or religious views of the protagonist or other characters; or

9           (6) content related to sexual health that addresses physical, mental,  
10          emotional, or social dimensions of human sexuality, including puberty, sex,  
11          and relationships.

12          (c) The policy and procedures required under subsection (a) of this section  
13          shall ensure that certified school library staff are responsible for curating and  
14          developing collections that provide students with access to a wide array of  
15          materials that are relevant to students’ research, independent reading interests,  
16          and educational needs, as well as ensuring such materials are tailored to the  
17          cognitive and emotional levels of the children served by the school.