

1 S.113

2 Introduced by Senators Sears and Mullin

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; child abuse and neglect; mandatory reporters

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require independent schools to
7 comply with the same training as school districts with respect to the
8 prevention, identification, and reporting of child sexual abuse and sexual
9 violence, and to add headmasters of independent schools to the list of
10 mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect.

11 An act relating to prevention, identification, and reporting of child abuse
12 and neglect at independent schools

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

14 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 563a is amended to read:

15 § 563a. ~~SCHOOL BOARDS~~; PREVENTION, IDENTIFICATION, AND
16 REPORTING OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL
17 VIOLENCE

18 ~~The~~ Each school board of a school district and governing body of an
19 approved or recognized independent school shall ensure that adults employed
20 in the schools ~~maintained by the district~~ within its jurisdiction receive

1 orientation, information, or instruction on the prevention, identification, and
2 reporting of child sexual abuse, as defined in 33 V.S.A. § 4912(8), and sexual
3 violence. This shall include information regarding the signs and symptoms of
4 sexual abuse, sexual violence, grooming processes, recognizing the dangers of
5 child sexual abuse in and close to the home, and other predatory behaviors of
6 sex offenders. The school board or governing body shall also provide
7 opportunities for parents, guardians, and other interested persons to receive the
8 same information. The department of education and the agency of human
9 services shall provide materials and technical support to any school board or
10 governing body that requests assistance in implementing this section.

11 Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 4913(a) is amended to read:

12 (a) Any physician, surgeon, osteopath, chiropractor, or physician's assistant
13 licensed, certified, or registered under the provisions of Title 26, any resident
14 physician, intern, or any hospital administrator in any hospital in this state,
15 whether or not so registered, and any registered nurse, licensed practical nurse,
16 medical examiner, emergency medical personnel as defined in 24 V.S.A.
17 § 2651(6), dentist, psychologist, pharmacist, any other health care provider,
18 child care worker, school superintendent, headmaster of an approved or
19 recognized independent school as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 11, school teacher,
20 school librarian, school principal, school guidance counselor, and any other
21 individual who is regularly employed by a school district or an approved or

1 recognized independent school, or who is contracted and paid by a school
2 district or an approved or recognized independent school to provide student
3 services for five or more hours per week during the school year, mental health
4 professional, social worker, probation officer, any employee, contractor, and
5 grantee of the agency of human services who have contact with clients, police
6 officer, camp owner, camp administrator, camp counselor, or member of the
7 clergy who has reasonable cause to believe that any child has been abused or
8 neglected shall report or cause a report to be made in accordance with the
9 provisions of section 4914 of this title within 24 hours. As used in this
10 subsection, “camp” includes any residential or nonresidential recreational
11 program.

12 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on passage.