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S.257

Representatives Strong of Albany and Hebert of Vernon move that the report of the Committee on Education be amended by adding a new section, with reader assistance, to be Sec. 25, to read:

* * * Bullying * * *

Sec. 25. 16 V.S.A. § 570c is amended to read:

§ 570c. BULLYING

(a) The bullying prevention policy required by section 570 of this title and its plan for implementation shall include:

(1) a statement that bullying, as defined in subdivision 11(a)(32) of this title, is prohibited;

(2) a procedure that directs students, staff, parents, and guardians how to report violations and file complaints;

(3) a procedure for investigating reports of violations and complaints;

(4) a description of the circumstances under which bullying may be reported to a law enforcement agency;

(5) consequences and appropriate remedial action for students who commit bullying;

(6) a description of how the school board will ensure that teachers and other staff members receive training in preventing, recognizing, and responding to bullying; and

1 (7) annual designation of two or more people at each school campus to
2 receive complaints and a procedure both for publicizing the availability of
3 those people and clarifying that their designation does not preclude a student
4 from bringing a complaint to any adult in the building.

5 (b)(1) If a parent or guardian of a student believes that the student has been
6 bullied and that the school has not taken appropriate action to protect the
7 student from further instances of bullying, then the parent or guardian may
8 seek to have the school district pay tuition for the student to attend another
9 school in accordance with section 828 of this title.

10 (2) A parent or guardian seeking this remedy shall submit a document to
11 the board of the school district that:

12 (A) explains the reasons that the parent or guardian believes that the
13 student has been bullied:

14 (B) explains the reasons that the parent or guardian believes that the
15 school has not taken appropriate action to protect the student from further
16 instances of bullying; and

17 (C) requests that the school district pay tuition for the student to
18 attend another school in accordance with section 828 of this title.

19 (3) The school board shall meet with the parent or guardian and
20 representatives of the school within 15 days after it receives the document
21 submitted under subdivision (2) of this subsection.

1 (4) The school board shall issue notice of its decision in writing to the
2 parent or guardian and representatives of the school within two days after the
3 meeting with the parent or guardian and representatives of the school. The
4 notice shall include the rationale for the decision.

5 (5) If the parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the decision, the parent
6 or guardian may appeal the decision to the Secretary of Education by notifying
7 the Secretary in writing, within ten days after receipt of the notice of decision,
8 of the reasons for the parent’s or guardian’s appeal.

9 (6) The Secretary shall meet with the parent or guardian and
10 representatives of the school board within 15 days after it receives the appeal
11 submitted under subdivision (5) of this subsection.

12 (7) The Secretary shall issue notice of his or her decision in writing to
13 the parent or guardian and representatives of the school district within two
14 days after the meeting with the parent or guardian and representatives of the
15 school district. The notice shall include the rationale for the decision. The
16 Secretary’s decision shall be final.

17 (8) Tuition paid by a school district under this subsection (b) shall be
18 paid in accordance with sections 823 and 824 of this title.

19 and by renumbering the remaining section to be numerically correct.