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H.347

Introduced by Representatives Colburn of Burlington, Copeland-Hanzas of  
Bradford, and Rachelson of Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; task force on campus sexual harm

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the task  
force on campus sexual harm to examine issues relating to responses to sexual  
harm, dating and intimate partner violence, and stalking on campuses of  
postsecondary education institutions in Vermont.

An act relating to the creation of the Task Force on Campus Sexual Harm

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

Sec. 1. TASK FORCE ON CAMPUS SEXUAL HARM; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Task Force on Campus Sexual Harm to  
examine issues relating to responses to sexual harm, dating and intimate  
partner violence, and stalking on campuses of postsecondary education  
institutions in Vermont.

(b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the following  
14 members:

1           (1) one current member of the House of Representatives, appointed by  
2           the Speaker of the House;

3           (2) one current member of the Senate, appointed by the Committee on  
4           Committees;

5           (3) two survivors of campus sexual assault, domestic violence, or  
6           stalking incidents, appointed by Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services;

7           (4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic  
8           and Sexual Violence or designee;

9           (5) one representative of a community-based sexual violence advocacy  
10          organization, appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic and  
11          Sexual Violence;

12          (6) one Title IX Coordinator working in a Vermont postsecondary  
13          education institution, appointed by the Vermont Higher Education Council;

14          (7) one campus health and wellness or sexual violence prevention  
15          educator working in a Vermont postsecondary education institution,  
16          appointed by the Vermont Higher Education Council;

17          (8) one victim advocate working in a Vermont postsecondary  
18          education institution, appointed by the Vermont Higher Education Council;

19          (9) two students who are members of campus groups representing  
20          traditionally marginalized communities, appointed by the Vermont Higher  
21          Education Council;

1           (10) one community-based restorative justice practitioner, appointed  
2           by the Community Justice Network of Vermont;

3           (11) the Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges or designee; and

4           (12) the President of the Association of Vermont Independent Colleges  
5           or designee.

6           (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall study the following:

7           (1) The pathways for survivors of sexual harm in postsecondary  
8           education institutional settings to seek healing and justice and  
9           recommendations to increase or enhance those pathways.

10          (2) Issues with Vermont’s campus adjudication processes as identified  
11          by survivors of sexual harm, dating and intimate partner violence, or stalking  
12          in postsecondary education institutional settings.

13          (3) Issues relating to transparency, safety, and accountability of  
14          outcomes in campus conduct adjudication processes for sexual harm, dating  
15          and intimate partner violence, or stalking, including:

16                (A) current and best practices relating to outcomes conveyed  
17                through a student’s transcript record;

18                (B) the effectiveness of acts passed in New York in 2015 to address  
19                campus sexual assault and in Virginia in 2015 to include a notation “on the  
20                transcript of each student who has been suspended for, has been permanently  
21                dismissed for, or withdraws from the institution while under investigation for

1 an offense involving sexual violence under the institution's code, rules, or set  
2 of standards governing student conduct"; and

3 (C) consideration of concerns raised by the Association of Title II  
4 Administrators with regard to transcript notation, in support of proposed  
5 federal legislation known as the Safe Transfer Act (H.R.6523, 114th  
6 Congress).

7 (4) How to improve survivor safety in campus adjudication processes.

8 (5) Any state policy changes that should be made in response to  
9 Title IX changes at the federal level.

10 (d) Assistance. For purposes of scheduling meetings and preparing  
11 recommended legislation, the Task Force shall have the assistance of the  
12 Office of Legislative Council.

13 (e) Report. On or before November 15, 2019, the Task Force shall submit  
14 a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education and  
15 Judiciary with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

16 (f) Meetings.

17 (1) The Executive Director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic  
18 and Sexual Violence or designee shall call the first meeting of the Task Force  
19 to occur on or before July 15, 2019.

20 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the  
21 first meeting.

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

2           (4) The Task Force shall cease to exist on November 16, 2019.

3           (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

4           (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General  
5           Assembly, a legislative member of the Task Force serving in his or her  
6           capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and  
7           reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for not more than  
8           six meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the  
9           General Assembly.

10          (2) Other members of the Task Force who are not otherwise  
11          compensated for their service on the Task Force shall be entitled to per diem  
12          compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.  
13          § 1010 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be made from  
14          monies appropriated to the Agency of Education.

15          (h) Appropriation. The sum of \$6,588.00 is appropriated to the Agency of  
16          Education from the General Fund in fiscal year 2020 for per diem  
17          compensation and reimbursement of expenses for nonlegislative members of  
18          the Task Force. The sum of \$2,628.00 is appropriated to the General  
19          Assembly from the General Fund in fiscal year 2020 for per diem  
20          compensation and reimbursement of expenses for legislative members of the  
21          Task Force.

- 1      Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 2      This act shall take effect on passage.