

1 H.701

2 Introduced by Representatives Emmons of Springfield and Morris of
3 Springfield

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Education; minimum course of study; digital citizenship

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that
8 students in public schools, approved and recognized independent schools, and
9 home study programs receive instruction in digital citizenship, with the goals
10 of enabling students to identify harmful or violent social media content they
11 witness, experience, and post and to provide students with action steps on how
12 to handle these posts and avoid or resolve conflicts without causing harm to
13 oneself or others.

14 An act relating to requiring students to learn about digital citizenship

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

16 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 906 is amended to read:

17 § 906. COURSE OF STUDY

18 (a) In public schools, approved and recognized independent schools, and in
19 home study programs, learning experiences shall be provided for students in
20 the minimum course of study.

1 (b) For purposes of this title, the minimum course of study means learning
2 experiences adapted to a student's age and ability in the fields of:

3 (1) basic communication skills, including reading, writing, and the use
4 of numbers;

5 (2) citizenship, history, and government in Vermont and the United
6 States;

7 (3) physical education and comprehensive health education, including
8 the effects of tobacco, alcoholic drinks, and drugs on the human system and on
9 society;

10 (4) English, American, and other literature;

11 (5) the natural sciences; and

12 (6) the fine arts.

13 (c) Instruction in citizenship shall include digital citizenship, with the goals
14 of enabling students to identify harmful or violent social media content they
15 witness, experience, and post and to provide students with action steps on how
16 to handle these posts and avoid or resolve conflicts without causing harm to
17 oneself or others.

18 Sec. 2. DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP CURRICULUM

19 On or before December 31, 2020, the Vermont School Boards Association
20 shall develop and make available to supervisory unions and approved
21 independent schools a model digital citizenship curriculum. On or before

1 June 30, 2021, supervisory unions and approved independent schools shall
2 develop digital citizenship curricula for their schools for the 2021–2022 school
3 year and thereafter.

4 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

5 Sec. 2 and this section shall take effect on passage. Sec. 1 shall take effect
6 on July 1, 2021.