

1 S.115

2 Introduced by Committee on Education

3 Date:

4 Subject: Education; miscellaneous

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make
6 miscellaneous changes in education laws.

7 An act relating to making miscellaneous changes in education laws

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

9 * * * Libraries in Vermont * * *

10 Sec. 1. WORKING GROUP ON THE STATUS OF LIBRARIES IN
11 VERMONT; REPORT

12 (a) Creation. There is created the Working Group on the Status of
13 Libraries in Vermont to study and report on the statewide status of Vermont's
14 libraries. The Working Group is formed with the intent of strengthening and
15 supporting libraries of all sizes and improving library services for the public.

16 (b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following
17 members:

18 (1) the State Librarian;

19 (2) the President of the Vermont Library Association or designee;

1 (3) the Executive Director of the Vermont Humanities Council or
2 designee;

3 (4) three representatives of public libraries, who shall be from libraries
4 of different sizes and from different regions of the State, appointed by the State
5 Librarian;

6 (5) two representatives of public school libraries, who shall be from
7 schools of different sizes and from different regions of the State, appointed by
8 the Secretary of Education;

9 (6) two representatives of college and university libraries, appointed by
10 the President of the College and Special Libraries Section of the Vermont
11 Library Association; and

12 (7) one public library trustee, appointed by the President of the Friends
13 and Trustees Section of the Vermont Library Association.

14 (c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall study:

15 (1) library services for specific segments of the Vermont population,
16 including senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, youths and children,
17 immigrant and migrant communities, and people living in poverty;

18 (2) the role that libraries play in emergency preparedness, cultural
19 diversity and inclusion, public health and safety, community identity and
20 resiliency, economic development, and access to public programs and services;

1 (3) the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on library operations and
2 services; and

3 (4) the current overall status of Vermont libraries, which may include
4 information related to programming, collections, facilities, technology, and
5 staffing.

6 (A) Programming. The Working Group may study the types and
7 frequency of library programs, attendance at library programs, and whether
8 library programs are meeting community needs. The study of programming
9 may include an assessment of public engagement and outreach surrounding
10 library programming as well as the opportunities for nonlibrary programs and
11 groups to access Vermont libraries.

12 (B) Collections. The Working Group may study the size and
13 diversity of library holdings and assess the strengths and gaps in materials
14 available to Vermonters. The study of collections may include an assessment
15 of how libraries may best share resources across differing libraries and
16 communities, whether libraries offer community-specific resources, and
17 whether libraries maintain special collections or historical artifacts.

18 (C) Facilities. The Working Group may study whether library
19 facilities and buildings could be improved with regard to energy efficiency,
20 accessibility, flexibility, human health and safety, historic preservation, and
21 intergenerational needs.

1 (D) Technology. The Working Group may study whether Vermont
2 libraries have sufficient access to basic technological resources, cyber-security
3 resources, high-speed Internet, electronic catalogs, interlibrary loan and other
4 interoperable systems, and appropriate hardware and software.

5 (E) Staff. The Working Group may study staffing levels at Vermont
6 libraries, whether staffing levels are sufficient to meet community needs,
7 whether library staff compensation and benefits are sufficient, how libraries
8 rely on volunteers, and what resources are available for workforce
9 development and training of library staff.

10 (d) Public input. As part of the study and report, the Working Group shall
11 solicit feedback from the general public and library users around the State.
12 The Working Group may examine models for library management and
13 organization in other states, including the formation of statewide service
14 networks.

15 (e) Data to be used. The data used in the analysis of library services and
16 operations may be from 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
17 Postpandemic data may also be used to assess the status of library services and
18 operations.

19 (f) Consultation with the Board of Libraries. The Working Group may
20 solicit feedback from the Board of Libraries.

1 (g) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative,
2 technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Libraries.

3 (h) Report. On or before November 1, 2023, the Working Group shall
4 submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Education. The report
5 shall contain:

6 (1) specific and detailed findings and proposals concerning the issues set
7 forth in subsection (c) of this section;

8 (2) recommendations for updating the statutes, rules, standards, and the
9 governance structures of Vermont libraries to ensure equitable access for
10 Vermont residents, efficient use of resources, and quality in the provision of
11 services;

12 (3) recommendations related to the funding needs of Vermont libraries,
13 including capital, ongoing, and special funding; and

14 (4) any other information or recommendations that the Working Group
15 may deem necessary.

16 (i) Meetings.

17 (1) The State Librarian shall be the Chair of the Working Group.

18 (2) The Chair shall call the first meeting of the Working Group to occur
19 within 45 days after the effective date of this act.

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

21 (4) The Working Group shall cease to exist on December 1, 2023.

1 published by the authority of ~~such~~ the other state, or which is kept in the State
2 Library ~~at Montpelier~~. The determination of ~~such~~ the laws shall be made by
3 the court and not by the jury, and shall be reviewable.

4 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 212 is amended to read:

5 § 212. SECRETARY'S DUTIES GENERALLY

6 The Secretary shall execute those policies adopted by the State Board in the
7 legal exercise of its powers and shall:

8 * * *

9 (7) Arrange conferences and summer schools for superintendents and
10 teachers and employ suitable speakers, lecturers, and instructors for the same;
11 fix the amount of tuition for the instruction; provide for educational gatherings,
12 institutes, summer schools, and other supplementary educational activities; and
13 provide for cooperation with the Board of Libraries established by 22 V.S.A.
14 § 602 or the State Librarian.

15 * * *

16 Sec. 5. 22 V.S.A. § 605 is amended to read:

17 § 605. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
18 LIBRARIES

19 The duties and functions of the Department of Libraries shall be to provide,
20 administer, and maintain:

21 * * *

1 Sec. 6. 29 V.S.A. § 1108 is amended to read:

2 § 1108. ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS; CONDITIONS OF
3 CONTRACTS

4 The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services may require
5 satisfactory bonds from bidders and contractors, ~~and shall specify in each~~
6 ~~contract for printing that, in case the matter contracted for is not delivered to~~
7 ~~the State Librarian or in accordance with his or her written order to such other~~
8 ~~person as may be specified in the contract, on or before the date specified in~~
9 ~~the contract for such delivery, \$25.00 of the contract price shall be deducted~~
10 ~~for every day such delivery is delayed, and, in case the delay exceeds 10 days,~~
11 ~~there shall be deducted in addition to the above amount \$10.00 for each day's~~
12 ~~delay over 10 days; and he or she shall also specify in each contract that all~~
13 ~~public documents and printed matter shall be delivered to the State Librarian at~~
14 ~~the State Library unless otherwise directed in writing by him or her or the State~~
15 ~~Librarian. The provisions of this section and section 1107 of this title relating~~
16 ~~to advertising and bids shall not apply to a contract for printing where the~~
17 ~~amount of the contract does not exceed \$50.00.~~

18 Sec. 7. REPEALS

19 The following are repealed:

20 (1) 4 V.S.A. § 16 (briefs and other papers kept in State Library);

21 (2) 29 V.S.A. § 1156 (distribution of documents by State Librarian); and

1 Disease Control and Prevention’s Whole School, Whole Community, Whole
2 Child Model.

3 * * * Menstrual Products * * *

4 Sec. 11. 16 V.S.A. § 1432 is added to read:

5 § 1432. MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

6 (a) By enacting this statute, the General Assembly intends to ensure that all
7 students attending a public school or an approved independent school have
8 access to menstrual products at no cost and without the embarrassment of
9 having to request them.

10 (b)(1) A school district and an approved independent school shall make
11 menstrual products available at no cost for each school within the district or
12 under the jurisdiction of the board of the independent school in:

13 (A) a majority of gender-neutral bathrooms and bathrooms
14 designated for females that are generally used by females in any of grades five
15 through 12; and

16 (B) the school nurse’s office.

17 (2) The school district or independent school, in consultation with the
18 school nurse who provides services to the school, shall determine which of the
19 gender-neutral bathrooms and bathrooms designated for females to stock with
20 menstrual products and which brands to use.

