

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred House Bill No. 101  
3 entitled “An act relating to relating to the implementation of 2018 Acts and  
4 Resolves No. 173 by providing grant funding to build systems-driven,  
5 sustainable literacy support for all students with measurable outcomes”  
6 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the  
7 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in  
8 lieu thereof the following:

9 \* \* \* Task Force on Universal School Lunch; Report \* \* \*

10 Sec. 1. TASK FORCE ON UNIVERSAL SCHOOL LUNCH; REPORT

11 (a) Creation. There is created the Task Force on Universal School Lunch.  
12 The Task Force shall make recommendations on how, not later than the 2026–  
13 2027 school year, to achieve the goal of providing universal school lunch for  
14 all public school students at no cost to the students or their families.

15 (b) Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of the:

16 (1) Secretary of Education or designee;

17 (2) Secretary of Human Services or designee; and

18 (3) Secretary of Agriculture or designee.

19 (c) Powers and duties. The Task Force shall make recommendations on  
20 how, not later than the 2026–2027 school year, to achieve the goal of providing

1 universal school lunch for all public school students at no cost to the students  
2 or their families and shall perform the following tasks:

3 (1) recommend funding sources for universal school lunch;

4 (2) recommend what data should be collected by local education  
5 agencies, school districts, and schools to qualify for federal funds based on  
6 student poverty, the means by which the data should be collected, the  
7 frequency of collection, and how this data should be reported to the Agency of  
8 Education and the frequency of this reporting;

9 (3) consider how other states offer and fund universal school meals at no  
10 cost to students or their families; and

11 (4) meet with Vermont’s federal delegation to discuss what changes  
12 could be made to federal law and regulations to more readily facilitate  
13 universal school meals.

14 (d) Collaboration. In performing its duties under this section, the Task  
15 Force shall collaborate with Hunger Free Vermont, the School Nutrition  
16 Association of Vermont, the Vermont Superintendents Association, the  
17 Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont Council of Special  
18 Education Administrators, the Vermont Principals’ Association, and the  
19 Vermont-National Education Association.

20 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2022, the Task Force shall submit a  
21 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education and on

1 Appropriations, the House Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, and the  
2 Senate Committee on Agriculture with its findings and any recommendations  
3 for legislative action.

4 (f) Meetings.

5 (1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the Task  
6 Force to occur on or before October 10, 2021.

7 (2) The Task Force shall select a chair from among its members at the  
8 first meeting.

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

10 (4) The Task Force shall meet not more than eight times.

11 (5) The Task Force shall expire on January 16, 2022.

12 (g) Assistance. The Task Force shall have the administrative, technical,  
13 and legal assistance of the Agency of Education.

14 \* \* \* State Board of Education; Members \* \* \*

15 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 161 is amended to read:

16 § 161. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; APPOINTMENT OF  
17 MEMBERS; TERM; VACANCY

18 The State Board shall consist of ten members. Two of the members shall be  
19 secondary students, one of whom shall be a full member and the other of  
20 whom shall be a junior member who may not vote. All members shall be  
21 appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. In the

1 appointment of the nonstudent members, priority shall be given to the selection  
2 of persons with a demonstrated commitment to ensuring quality education for  
3 Vermont students. To the extent possible, the members shall represent  
4 ~~geographically diverse areas of the State~~ the State's geographic, gender, racial,  
5 and ethnic diversity. The Secretary shall serve on the State Board as a  
6 nonvoting member.

7 \* \* \*

8 \* \* \* State Board of Education; Powers and Duties \* \* \*

9 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 164 is amended to read:

10 § 164. STATE BOARD; GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

11 The State Board shall ~~evaluate education policy proposals, including timely~~  
12 ~~evaluation of policies presented by the Governor and Secretary;~~ engage local  
13 school board members and the broader education community; ~~and establish~~  
14 ~~and advance education policy for the State of Vermont~~ and, consistent with the  
15 provisions of this title, its own rules, and rules adopted by the Secretary,  
16 establish and regularly update a long-term strategic vision for the delivery of  
17 educational services in Vermont; advise the General Assembly, the Governor,  
18 and the Secretary of Education on high priority educational policies and issues  
19 as they arise; and act in accordance with Legislative mandates, including the  
20 adoption of rules and executing special assignments. In addition to other  
21 specified duties, the Board shall:

1           (1) Establish such advisory commissions as in the judgment of the  
2 Board will be of assistance to it in carrying out its duties. Advisory  
3 commission members shall serve with or without compensation at the  
4 discretion of the Board but shall receive actual expenses incurred in pursuance  
5 of their duties.

6           (2) Have the authority to enter into agreements with school districts,  
7 municipalities, states, the United States, foundations, agencies, or individuals  
8 for service, educational programs, or research projects.

9           (3) Examine and determine all appeals that by law are made to it and  
10 prescribe rules of practice in respect thereto, not inconsistent with law.

11           (4) ~~Review and comment on an Agency budget prepared by the~~  
12 ~~Secretary for the Governor.~~ [Repealed.]

13           (5) [Repealed.]

14           (6) Make regulations governing the attendance and records of  
15 attendance of all students and the department of students attending public  
16 schools.

17           (7) Adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 ~~as necessary or~~  
18 ~~appropriate for the execution of its powers and duties and of the powers and~~  
19 ~~duties of all persons under its supervision and control~~ to carry out the powers  
20 and duties of the Board as directed by the General Assembly, within the  
21 limitations of legislative intent.

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\* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act relating to the Task Force on Universal School Lunch, diversity on the State Board of Education, and the State Board of Education’s Powers and Duties”

(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE