

1 Introduced by Senate Committee on Education  
2 Referred to Committee on  
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. Post-  
17          pandemic 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 Library ~~at Montpelier~~. The determination of ~~such~~ the laws shall be made by  
2 the court and not by the jury, and shall be reviewable.

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

4 § 212. SECRETARY’S DUTIES GENERALLY

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

7 \* \* \*

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

14 \* \* \*

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

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

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

20 \* \* \*





1 § 1108. ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS; CONDITIONS OF  
2 CONTRACTS

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

17 \* \* \*

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 hygiene products \* \* \*

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

5 § 1432. MENSTRUAL HYGIENE 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 hygiene products at no cost and without the embarrassment  
9 of having to request them.

10 (b)(1) A school district and an approved independent school shall make  
11 menstrual hygiene products available at no cost for each school within the  
12 district or 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 hygiene products and which brands to use.

