

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 139
3 entitled “An act relating to public schools’ team mascots” respectfully reports
4 that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by
5 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the
6 following:

7 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 164 is amended to read:

8 § 164. STATE BOARD; GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

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

18 * * *

19 (22) Adopt rules governing public school mascots, nicknames, logos,
20 letterhead, and team names.

1 Sec. 2. GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL MASCOTS

2 (a)(1) On or before December 31, 2022, the Vermont State Board of
3 Education shall adopt rules for acceptable mascots, nicknames, logos,
4 letterhead, and team names for public schools. Acceptable mascots,
5 nicknames, logos, letterhead, or team names shall not have a name, symbol, or
6 image that depicts or refers to a Native American:

7 (A) tribe;

8 (B) individual;

9 (C) custom; or

10 (D) tradition.

11 (2) In developing these rules, the State Board of Education shall consult
12 with the Agency of Education, the Vermont School Boards Association, the
13 Vermont Principals' Association, the Vermont Superintendents Association,
14 the Vermont National Education Association, and at least two students
15 currently enrolled in public school.

16 (b) On or before December 31, 2023, each school district shall comply with
17 the State Board of Education rules for acceptable mascots, nicknames, logos,
18 letterhead, or team names, and shall report on the status of its compliance to
19 the State Board of Education. On or before April 1, 2024, the State Board of
20 Education shall chose a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team name for

1 each school district that is not in compliance with this section by December 31,
2 2023.

3 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect upon passage.

5

6 (Committee vote: _____)

7

8

Senator _____

9

FOR THE COMMITTEE