

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 283
3 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous changes to education laws”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * Community College of Vermont In-State Tuition for Refugees * * *

8 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2185 is amended to read:

9 § 2185. DETERMINATION OF RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES

10 (a) The Board of Trustees shall adopt policies related to residency for
11 tuition purposes, consistent with State and federal requirements.

12 (b) Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty who is
13 transferred to Vermont for duty other than for the purpose of education shall,
14 upon transfer and for the period of active duty served in Vermont, be
15 considered a resident for in-state tuition purposes at the start of the next
16 semester or academic period.

17 (c) For determination of residency for tuition purposes for the Community
18 College of Vermont, a person who resides in Vermont and meets the definition
19 of “refugee” under 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(42) shall, upon arrival in Vermont and
20 for the period of residency in Vermont, be considered a resident for in-state
21 tuition purposes at the start of the next semester or academic period.

1 * * * Suspension or Expulsion of Students * * *

2 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1162 is amended to read:

3 § 1162. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

4 (a) A superintendent or principal may, pursuant to policies adopted by the
5 school board that are consistent with State Board rules, suspend a student for
6 up to 10 school days or, with the approval of the board of the school district,
7 expel a student for up to the remainder of the school year or up to 90 school
8 days, whichever is longer, for misconduct:

9 (1) on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity
10 when the misconduct makes the continued presence of the student harmful to
11 the welfare of the school;

12 (2) not on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored
13 activity where direct harm to the welfare of the school can be demonstrated; or

14 (3) not on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored
15 activity where the misconduct can be shown to pose a clear and substantial
16 interference with another student’s equal access to educational programs.

17 (b) Nothing contained in this section shall prevent a superintendent or
18 principal, subject to subsequent due process procedures, from removing
19 immediately from a school a student who poses a continuing danger to persons
20 or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process of the

1 school, or from expelling a student who brings a weapon to school pursuant to
2 section 1166 of this title.

3 (c) Principals, superintendents, and school boards are authorized and
4 encouraged to provide alternative education services or programs to students
5 during any period of suspension or expulsion authorized under this section.

6 (d) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this chapter, a student
7 enrolled in a public school, approved independent school, or prequalified
8 private prekindergarten program who is under eight years of age shall not be
9 suspended or expelled from the school; provided, however, that the school may
10 suspend or expel the student if the student poses an imminent threat of harm or
11 danger to others in the school.

12 * * * Entrance Age Threshold for Public School Kindergarten * * *

13 Sec. 3. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMPACT OF
14 STANDARDIZING THE ENTRANCE AGE THRESHOLD FOR
15 PUBLIC SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN

16 On or before December 15, 2022, the Agency of Education shall issue a
17 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on the impact
18 of standardizing the entrance age threshold for public school kindergarten
19 attendance. In preparing the report, the Agency of Education shall consult
20 with the Vermont Department for Children and Families, the Vermont
21 Department of Health, the Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont

1 Principals’ Association, the Vermont Superintendents Association, and the
2 Vermont National Education Association. The report shall include any
3 recommendations for legislative action.

4 * * * Statewide Uniform School Calendar * * *

5 Sec. 4. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A STATEWIDE
6 UNIFORM SCHOOL CALENDAR

7 On or before January 15, 2023, the Agency of Education shall issue a
8 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on the impact
9 of creating a statewide uniform school calendar that shall include student
10 attendance days, periods of vacation, holidays, and teacher in-service
11 education days. The report shall include any recommendations for legislative
12 action.

13 * * * Remote Learning * * *

14 Sec. 5. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATEWIDE
15 REMOTE LEARNING POLICY

16 On or before January 15, 2023, the Agency of Education, in consultation
17 with the State Board of Education, shall issue a written report to the Senate and
18 House Committees on Education with recommendations for a statewide remote
19 learning policy that incorporates remote learning into the requirements for
20 student attendance, school days, and cumulative instructional hours. The
21 report shall define remote learning and recommend statewide quality standards

1 to ensure substantially equal access to quality basic education. The report shall
2 also include any recommendations for legislative action.

3 * * * Effective Date * * *

4 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on passage.

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18 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE