

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 to the Community College of
18 Vermont, a person who resides in Vermont shall be considered a resident for
19 in-state tuition purposes, beginning at the start of the next semester or
20 academic period after arrival in Vermont, if that person:

21 (1) qualifies as a refugee pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42);

1 (2) is granted parole to enter the United States pursuant to 8 U.S.C.
2 1182(d)(5); or
3 (3) is issued a special immigrant visa pursuant to the Afghan Allies
4 Protection Act of 2008, as amended.

5 * * * Suspension or Expulsion of Students * * *

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

7 § 1162. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

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

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

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

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

1 (b) Nothing contained in this section shall prevent a superintendent or
2 principal, subject to subsequent due process procedures, from removing
3 immediately from a school a student who poses a continuing danger to persons
4 or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process of the
5 school, or from expelling a student who brings a weapon to school pursuant to
6 section 1166 of this title.

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

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

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

17 Sec. 3. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMPACT OF
18 STANDARDIZING THE ENTRANCE AGE THRESHOLD FOR
19 PUBLIC SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN

20 On or before December 15, 2022, the Agency of Education shall issue a
21 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on the impact

1 of standardizing the entrance age threshold for public school kindergarten
2 attendance. In preparing the report, the Agency of Education shall consult
3 with the Vermont Department for Children and Families, the Vermont
4 Department of Health, the Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont
5 Principals' Association, the Vermont Superintendents Association, and the
6 Vermont National Education Association. The report shall include any
7 recommendations for legislative action.

8 * * * Statewide Uniform School Calendar * * *

9 Sec. 4. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A STATEWIDE
10 UNIFORM SCHOOL CALENDAR

11 On or before January 15, 2023, the Agency of Education shall issue a
12 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education with a
13 proposed statewide uniform school calendar, created to improve high quality
14 learning opportunities for all Vermont students. In creating the calendar, the
15 Agency shall consider the impact on attendance at regional career and
16 technical education centers, as well as the impact on families and educators.
17 The uniform calendar shall include student attendance days, periods of
18 vacation, holidays, and teacher in-service education days.

19 * * * Remote Learning * * *

20 Sec. 5. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATEWIDE
21 REMOTE LEARNING POLICY

1 On or before January 15, 2023, the Agency of Education, in consultation
2 with the State Board of Education, shall issue a written report to the Senate and
3 House Committees on Education with recommendations for a statewide remote
4 learning policy that incorporates remote learning into the requirements for
5 student attendance, school days, and cumulative instructional hours. The
6 report shall define remote learning and recommend statewide quality standards
7 to ensure substantially equal access to quality basic education. The report shall
8 also include any recommendations for legislative action.

9 * * * Effective Date * * *

10 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on passage.

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(Committee vote: _____)

Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE