

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 **Sec. 3. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON SUSPENSION,**

17 **EXPULSION, AND EXCLUSIONARY PRACTICES IN EARLY**

18 **CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SETTINGS**

19 The Building Bright Futures Council, established in 33 V.S.A. 4602, shall
20 collaborate with the Agencies of Human Services and Education to define
21 suspension, expulsion, and exclusionary practices in early childhood education

1 settings and to establish best practices for supporting children who face such
2 measures. The work of the Council shall include reviewing available data on
3 exclusionary practices. On or before January 15, 2023 the Building Bright
4 Futures Council shall issue a written report to the Senate and House
5 Committees on Education, the Senate Committee on Health & Welfare, and the
6 House Committee on Human Services detailing its work and findings and
7 making recommendations for legislative action.

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

9 Sec. 4. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMPACT OF
10 STANDARDIZING THE ENTRANCE AGE THRESHOLD FOR
11 PUBLIC SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN

12 On or before December 15, 2022, the Agency of Education shall issue a
13 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on the impact
14 of standardizing the entrance age threshold for public school kindergarten
15 attendance. In preparing the report, the Agency of Education shall consult
16 with the Vermont Department for Children and Families, the Vermont
17 Department of Health, the Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont
18 Principals' Association, the Vermont Superintendents Association, and the
19 Vermont National Education Association. The report shall include any
20 recommendations for legislative action.

21 * * * Statewide Uniform School Calendar * * *

1 Sec. 5. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A STATEWIDE
2 UNIFORM SCHOOL CALENDAR

3 On or before January 15, 2024, the Agency of Education shall issue a
4 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education with a
5 proposed statewide uniform school calendar, created to improve high quality
6 learning opportunities for all Vermont students. In creating the calendar, the
7 Agency shall consider the impact on attendance at regional career and
8 technical education centers, as well as the impact on families and educators.
9 The uniform calendar shall include student attendance days, periods of
10 vacation, holidays, and teacher in-service education days.

11 * * * Remote Learning * * *

12 Sec. 6. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATEWIDE
13 REMOTE LEARNING POLICY

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

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* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: _____)

Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE