

## Senate proposal of amendment to House proposal of amendment

### S. 138

An act relating to school safety

The Senate concurs in the House proposal of amendment with the following proposal of amendment as follows:

First: By adding a new section to be Sec. 5a. to read as follows:

#### Sec. 5a. WORKING GROUP ON STUDENT PROTECTIONS FROM HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOLS; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Working Group on Student Protections from Harassment and Discrimination in Schools to study and give recommendations for how to address harassment and discrimination experienced by students.

(b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following members:

(1) the Secretary of Education or designee;

(2) the Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission or designee;

(3) the Executive Director of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence or designee;

(4) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education Association or designee;

(5) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or designee;

(6) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or designee;

(7) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association or designee;

(8) the Executive Director of Outright Vermont or designee;

(9) the Executive Director of Racial Equity or designee;

(10) the Executive Director of the Vermont chapter of the National Association of Social Workers or designee;

(11) the Executive Director of Vermont Legal Aid or designee; and

(12) the Chair of the Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention Advisory Council.

(c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall study the current protections for students against harassment and discrimination in schools and make recommendations for legislative action to ensure Vermont students have the appropriate protections from harassment and discrimination. In conducting its analysis, the Working Group shall consider and make recommendations on the following issues:

(1) eliminating the severe and pervasive standard for harassment and discrimination for students in educational institutions;

(2) compulsory educational attendance requirements for students who have been victims of harassment; and

(3) the resources required for schools to develop harassment prevention initiatives as well as supports for students who have experienced harassment.

(d) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Education.

(e) Report. On or before December 1, 2023, the Working Group shall submit a written report to the House Committees on General and Housing and on Education and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Education with its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the Working Group to occur on or before July 15, 2023.

(2) The Working Group shall select a chair from among its members at the first meeting.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Working Group shall cease to exist on February 1, 2024.

Second: In Sec. 6, effective dates, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(a) This section and Secs. 5 and 5a shall take effect on July 1, 2023.