

1 S.138

2 An act relating to school safety

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

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

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

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

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

14 (1) the Secretary of Education or designee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (f) Meetings.

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

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

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

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

- 1 Second: In Sec. 6, effective dates, by striking out subsection (a) in its
- 2 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
- 3 (a) This section and Secs. 5 and 5a shall take effect on July 1, 2023.