

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Date:

3 Subject: Education; miscellaneous

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make
5 miscellaneous changes to education law.

6 An act relating to miscellaneous changes to education law

7 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

8 * * * State Board of Education * * *

9 **Sec. 1. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION STAFFING AND**
10 **COMPENSATION; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT**

11 (a) Creation. There is created the State Board of Education Compensation
12 and Staffing Study Committee to examine, evaluate, and report on the
13 compensation and staffing needs of the State Board of Education.

14 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following
15 members:

16 (1) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be
17 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

18 (2) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the
19 Committee on Committees;

20 (3) the Secretary of Education or designee, who shall serve as co-chair;

1 (4) the Chair of the State Board of Education or designee, who shall
2 serve as co-chair;

3 (5) the Executive Director of Racial Equity or designee;

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

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

8 (8) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Board Association or
9 designee; and

10 (9) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education
11 Association or designee.

12 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall evaluate the compensation and
13 staffing structure of the State Board of Education, including the following
14 issues:

15 (1) whether the State Board's current compensation and staffing
16 structure sufficiently enable the Board to carry out its duties and
17 responsibilities;

18 (2) staffing and compensation structures of Vermont State boards and
19 commissions with similar responsibilities to the State Board, including:

20 (A) appellate or quasijudicial duties;

21 (B) rulemaking authority;

1 (C) strategic planning and statewide policy development; and

2 (D) general governance and accountability oversight over a particular
3 subject matter or jurisdiction;

4 (3) whether the current compensation and staffing structure of the State
5 Board creates accessible opportunities for board membership to ensure the
6 makeup of the State Board reflects the diversity and experience of Vermont's
7 student population; and

8 (4) additional compensation and staffing structure options for the State
9 Board.

10 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
11 and legal assistance of the Agency of Education and the Agency of
12 Administration.

13 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2024, the Committee shall submit a
14 written report to House and Senate Committees on Education with its findings
15 and any recommendations for legislative action.

16 (f) Meetings.

17 (1) The Chair of the State Board of Education shall call the first meeting
18 of the Committee to occur on or before August 15, 2023.

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

20 (3) The Committee shall cease to exist on July 1, 2024.

21 (g) Compensation and reimbursement.

1 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
2 Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in the member's
3 capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
4 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than 10
5 meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the
6 General Assembly.

7 (2) Other members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
8 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.
9 § 1010 for not more than 10 meetings. These payments shall be made from
10 monies appropriated to the Agency of Education.

11 (h) Appropriation. The sum of \$ 1.00 is appropriated to the Agency of
12 Education from the General Fund in fiscal year 2024 for per diem
13 compensation and reimbursement of expenses for members of the Committee.

14 * * * Course Offerings and Academic Standards * * *

15 Sec. 2. STATEWIDE COURSE OFFERINGS IN GRADES

16 SIX THROUGH 12; REPORT

17 On or before July 1, 2024, the Agency of Education shall issue a written
18 report to the Senate and House Committees on Education detailing the breadth
19 of course offerings across the State for grades six through 12 in both public
20 and approved independent schools that are eligible to receive public tuition.

21 The report shall include differences between the offerings within each

1 supervisory union on a union-to-union basis as well as a district-to-district
2 basis if there are large differences in course offerings between districts within
3 the same supervisory union. **Approved independent schools eligible to receive**
4 **public tuition shall be included under the supervisory union the school is**
5 **geographically located within.**

6 Sec. 3. PROFICIENCY-BASED LEARNING; STUDY COMMITTEE

7 (a) Creation. There is created the Proficiency-Based Learning Study
8 Committee to study proficiency-based learning and proficiency-based
9 graduation requirements as they are used in Vermont, as required by the
10 Agency of Education, Education Quality Standards (CVR 22-000-003), and to
11 make recommendations for whether proficiency-based learning is the most
12 effective way to ensure Vermont students attain rigorous standards in high-
13 quality programs, or whether there are other systems of instruction,
14 assessment, grading, and academic reporting that would better serve Vermont
15 students.

16 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following
17 members:

18 (1) the Secretary of Education or designee;

19 (2) the Chair of the State Board of Education or designee;

20 (3) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or
21 designee;

1 (4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association
2 or designee;

3 (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Board Association or
4 designee; and

5 (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education
6 Association or designee.

7 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study proficiency-based
8 learning and proficiency-based graduation requirements, including the
9 following issues:

10 (1) the statewide implementation of proficiency-based learning and
11 proficiency-based graduation requirements and to what extent there is
12 consistency in application across all supervisory unions;

13 (2) other states' experience with proficiency-based learning;

14 (3) alternatives to proficiency-based learning, including other systems of
15 instruction, assessment, grading, and academic reporting; and

16 (4) recommendations for Vermont assessment standards and the efforts
17 needed to ensure successful and substantially equal implementation across
18 Vermont.

19 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
20 and legal assistance of the Vermont Agency of Education.

1 standards and regulations in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New York
2 and determine if those standards and regulations are substantially aligned with
3 the Vermont Early Learning Standards. The Agency shall also evaluate other
4 Vermont prequalification standards that may prevent a public or private
5 prekindergarten education program in these states from prequalification in
6 Vermont and determine if state regulations and oversight in those areas are
7 also substantially aligned with Vermont regulations. On or before January 15,
8 2024, the Agency shall issue a written report to the Senate and House
9 Committees on Education with its findings, including any recommendations
10 for legislative action to increase high quality prekindergarten education
11 opportunities in school districts on the Vermont border.

12 Sec. 6. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

13 Sec. 1. WORKING GROUP ON THE STATUS OF LIBRARIES IN
14 VERMONT; REPORT

15 (a) Creation. There is created the Working Group on the Status of
16 Libraries in Vermont to study and report on the statewide status of Vermont's
17 libraries. The Working Group is formed with the intent of strengthening and
18 supporting libraries of all sizes and improving library services for the public.

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

21 (1) the State Librarian;

1 (2) the President of the Vermont Library Association or designee;

2 (3) the Executive Director of the Vermont Humanities Council or
3 designee;

4 (4) three representatives of public libraries, who shall be from libraries
5 of different sizes and from different regions of the State, appointed by the State
6 Librarian;

7 (5) two representatives of public school libraries, who shall be from
8 schools of different sizes and from different regions of the State, appointed by
9 the Vermont School Library Association;

10 (6) two representatives of college and university libraries, appointed by
11 the President of the College and Special Libraries Section of the Vermont
12 Library Association; and

13 (7) one public library trustee, appointed by the President of the Friends
14 and Trustees Section of the Vermont Library Association.

15 (c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall study:

16 (1) library services for specific segments of the Vermont population,
17 including senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, youths and children,
18 immigrant and migrant communities, and people living in poverty;

19 (2) the role that libraries play in emergency preparedness, cultural
20 diversity and inclusion, public health and safety, community identity and
21 resiliency, economic development, and access to public programs and services;

1 (3) the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on library operations and
2 services; ~~and~~

3 (4) whether current law provides adequate protections for libraries from
4 firearm violence; and

5 ~~(4)~~(5) the current overall status of Vermont libraries, which may include
6 information related to programming, collections, facilities, technology, and
7 staffing.

8 (A) Programming. The Working Group may study the types and
9 frequency of library programs, attendance at library programs, and whether
10 library programs are meeting community needs. The study of programming
11 may include an assessment of public engagement and outreach surrounding
12 library programming as well as the opportunities for nonlibrary programs and
13 groups to access Vermont libraries.

14 (B) Collections. The Working Group may study the size and
15 diversity of library holdings and assess the strengths and gaps in materials
16 available to Vermonters. The study of collections may include an assessment
17 of how libraries may best share resources across differing libraries and
18 communities, whether libraries offer community-specific resources, and
19 whether libraries maintain special collections or historical artifacts.

20 (C) Facilities. The Working Group may study whether library
21 facilities and buildings could be improved with regard to energy efficiency,

1 accessibility, flexibility, human health and safety, historic preservation, and
2 intergenerational needs.

3 (D) Technology. The Working Group may study whether Vermont
4 libraries have sufficient access to basic technological resources, ~~cyber-security~~
5 cybersecurity resources, high-speed Internet, electronic catalogs, interlibrary
6 loan and other interoperable systems, and appropriate hardware and software.

7 (E) Staff. The Working Group may study staffing levels at Vermont
8 libraries, whether staffing levels are sufficient to meet community needs,
9 whether library staff compensation and benefits are sufficient, how libraries
10 rely on volunteers, and what resources are available for workforce
11 development and training of library staff.

12 (d) Public input. As part of the study and report, the Working Group shall
13 solicit feedback from the general public and library users around the State.
14 The Working Group may examine models for library management and
15 organization in other states, including the formation of statewide service
16 networks.

17 (e) Data to be used. The data used in the analysis of library services and
18 operations may be from 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
19 Postpandemic data may also be used to assess the status of library services and
20 operations.

1 (f) Consultation with the Board of Libraries. The Working Group may
2 solicit feedback from the Board of Libraries.

3 (g) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative,
4 technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Libraries.

5 (h) Report. On or before November 1, 2023, the Working Group shall
6 submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Education. The report
7 shall contain:

8 (1) specific and detailed findings and proposals concerning the issues set
9 forth in subsection (c) of this section, including recommendations for
10 legislative action regarding firearm and weapon safety on library property;

11 (2) recommendations for updating the statutes, rules, standards, and the
12 governance structures of Vermont libraries to ensure equitable access for
13 Vermont residents, efficient use of resources, and quality in the provision of
14 services;

15 (3) recommendations related to the funding needs of Vermont libraries,
16 including capital, ongoing, and special funding; and

17 (4) any other information or recommendations that the Working Group
18 may deem necessary.

19 (i) Meetings.

20 (1) The State Librarian shall be the Chair of the Working Group.

1 instruction by a certified driver education instructor as required by State Board
2 of Education rule.

3 (1) The Agency and Department shall appoint one or more certified
4 driver education instructors who shall assist in the development of the model
5 program.

6 (2) The model program shall be designed to be implemented on a
7 regional level, with an adequate number of programs provided to meet the
8 reasonably anticipated needs of all public and approved independent schools
9 located within the region. The Agency and Department shall partner with
10 interested school districts to define regions.

11 (3) The model program shall meet all legal requirements of student
12 driver education and training programs.

13 (b) Implementation. Regional pilot programs developed in accordance
14 with the model program created under subsection (a) of this section shall begin
15 offering student driver clinics on or before July 15, 2024.

16 (c) Appropriation. The sum of \$200,000.00 is appropriated from the
17 Transportation Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2024 for the
18 purpose of developing a model regional student driver clinic program.

19 * * * Effective Date * * *

20 Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

21 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.