1	TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:
2	The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 167
3	entitled "An act relating to miscellaneous amendments to education law"
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	* * * Public Construction Bids * * *
8	Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 559 is amended to read:
9	§ 559. PUBLIC BIDS
10	* * *
11	(b) High-cost construction contracts. When a school construction contract
12	exceeds \$500,000.00 \$2,000,000.00:
13	(1) The State Board shall establish, in consultation with the
14	Commissioner of Buildings and General Services and with other
15	knowledgeable sources, general rules for the prequalification of bidders on
16	such a contract. The Department of Buildings and General Services, upon
17	notice by the Secretary, shall provide to school boards undergoing construction
18	projects suggestions and recommendations on bidders qualified to provide
19	construction services.
20	(2) At least 60 days prior to the proposed bid opening on any

construction contract to be awarded by a school board that exceeds

\$500,000.00 \$2,000,000.00, the school board shall publicly advertise for contractors interested in bidding on the project. The advertisement shall indicate that the school board has established prequalification criteria that a contractor must meet and shall invite any interested contractor to apply to the school board for prequalification. All interested contractors shall submit their qualifications to the school board, which shall determine a list of eligible prospective bidders based on the previously established criteria. At least 30 days prior to the proposed bid opening, the school board shall give written notice of the board's determination to each contractor that submitted qualifications. The school board shall consider all bids submitted by prequalified bidders meeting the deadline.

- (c) Contract award.
- (1) A contract for any such item or service to be obtained pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be awarded to one of selected from among the three or fewer lowest responsible bids conforming to specifications, with consideration being given to quantities involved, time required for delivery, purpose for which required, competency and responsibility of bidder, and his or her the bidder's ability to render satisfactory service. A board shall have the right to reject any or all bids.
- (2) A contract for any property, construction, good, or service to be obtained pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be awarded to the

considering the base contract amount and without considering cost overruns, if
the two lowest responsible bids are within one percent of each other, the board
may award the contract to either bidder. A board shall have the right to reject
any bid found not to be responsible or conforming to specifications or to reject
all bids.
* * *
* * * Postsecondary Schools Chartered in Vermont * * *
Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 176(d) is amended to read:
(d) Exemptions. The following are exempt from the requirements of this
section except for the requirements of subdivision (c)(1)(C) of this section:
* * *
(4) Postsecondary schools that are accredited. The following
postsecondary institutions are accredited, meet the criteria for exempt status,

lowest responsible bid conforming to specifications. However, when

postsecondary institutions are accredited, meet the criteria for exempt status, and are authorized to operate educational programs beyond secondary education, including programs leading to a degree or certificate: Bennington College, Champlain College, College of St. Joseph, Goddard College, Green Mountain College, Landmark College, Marlboro College, Middlebury College, New England Culinary Institute, Norwich University, Saint Michael's College, SIT Graduate Institute, Southern Vermont College, Sterling College, Vermont College of Fine Arts, and Vermont Law and Graduate School. This

1	authorization is provided solely to the extent necessary to ensure institutional
2	compliance with federal financial aid-related regulations, and it does not affect
3	rescind, or supersede any preexisting authorizations, charters, or other forms of
4	recognition or authorization.
5	* * *
6	Sec. 3. 2023 Acts and Resolves No. 29, Sec. 6(c) is amended to read:
7	(c) Sec. 2 (16 V.S.A. § 1480) shall take effect on July 1, 2024 July 1, 2025.
8	Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 1262a is amended to read:
9	§ 1262A. AWARD OF GRANTS
10	* * *
11	(b)(1) The Agency may, from funds available to the Agency for this
12	subsection, award grants to the following entities that seek assistance in
13	meeting the cost of initiation or expansion of food programs:
14	(A) supervisory unions consisting of one or more school districts that
15	need to initiate or expand food programs in order to meet the requirements of
16	section 1264 of this title and that seek assistance in meeting the cost of
17	initiation or expansion; and
18	(B) nonprofit organizations that sponsor the Child and Adult Care
19	Food Program within licensed child care centers, Head Start programs,
20	afterschool programs, and adult day care programs.

(2) The amount of the grants shall be limited to 75 percent of the cost
deemed necessary by the Secretary to construct, renovate, or acquire additional
facilities and equipment to provide lunches to all students, and shall be reduced
by the amount of funds available from federal or other sources, including those
funds available under section 3448 of this title. The Agency shall direct
supervisory unions seeking grants under this section to share facilities and
equipment within the supervisory union and with other supervisory unions for
the provision of lunches wherever more efficient and effective operation of
food programs can be expected to result.
* * *

## Sec. 3. HOLOCAUST EDUCATION; DATA COLLECTION; REPORT

\* \* \* Holocaust Education \* \* \*

(a) On or before September 1, 2024, the Agency of Education shall request from all supervisory unions a report containing information regarding whether and where Holocaust education is taught in the prekindergarten through grade 12 supervisory union-wide curriculum. Included in the request from the Agency shall be Holocaust education resources, which shall be developed in consultation with the Vermont Holocaust Memorial.

(b) On or before December 31, 2024, Supervisory unions shall report back to the Agency with the information requested pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

1	(c) On or before March 1, 2025, the Agency shall submit a written report to
2	the Senate and House Committees on Education with information, organized
3	by supervisory union, regarding the inclusion of Holocaust education in
4	curriculum across the State. Additionally, the report shall include an
5	explanation of how curricula are developed, including an analysis of how
6	Holocaust education fits into the standards for student performance adopted by
7	the State Board of Education pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 164(9).
8	* * * Effective Date * * *
9	Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE
10	This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.
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12	
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14	
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17	(Committee vote:)
18	
19	Senator
20	FOR THE COMMITTEE