

1 H.130

2 Introduced by Representatives Minier of South Burlington, Christie of
3 Hartford, Arsenault of Williston, Bartley of Fairfax, Burrows of
4 West Windsor, Headrick of Burlington, LaMont of Morristown,
5 McCann of Montpelier, and Waters Evans of Charlotte

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Education; hazing, harassment, and bullying prevention; Agency of
9 Education

10 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to expand the
11 membership and duties of the Advisory Council on Harassment, Hazing, and
12 Bullying Prevention in Schools under 16 V.S.A. § 570.

13 An act relating to expanding the membership and duties of the Advisory
14 Council on Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention in Schools

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

16 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 570 is amended to read:

17 § 570. HARASSMENT, HAZING, AND BULLYING PREVENTION

18 POLICIES

19 * * *

20 (d) Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary shall:

1 (1) develop ~~and, from time to time, update~~ model harassment, hazing,
2 and bullying prevention policies; ~~and~~

3 (2) establish an Advisory Council ~~to review and coordinate school and~~
4 ~~statewide activities relating to the prevention of and response to harassment,~~
5 ~~hazing, and bullying. The Council shall report annually in January to the State~~
6 ~~Board and the House and Senate Committees on Education. The Council shall~~
7 ~~include:~~

8 ~~(A) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or~~
9 ~~designee;~~

10 ~~(B) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards~~
11 ~~Association or designee;~~

12 ~~(C) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents~~
13 ~~Association or designee;~~

14 ~~(D) the President of the Vermont National Education Association or~~
15 ~~designee;~~

16 ~~(E) the Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights~~
17 ~~Commission or designee;~~

18 ~~(F) the Executive Director of the Vermont Independent Schools~~
19 ~~Association or designee; and~~

1 ~~(G) other members selected by the Secretary, at least one of whom~~
2 ~~shall be a current secondary student who has witnessed or experienced~~
3 ~~harassment, hazing, or bullying in the school environment; and~~

4 (3) provide the Advisory Council with administrative support.

5 (e) Advisory Council on Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention in
6 Schools.

7 (1) Membership. The Advisory Council shall be composed of the
8 following members:

9 (A) the Secretary of Education or designee;

10 (B) a principal, appointed by the Vermont Principals' Association;

11 (C) a school board member, appointed by the Vermont School
12 Boards Association;

13 (D) a superintendent, appointed by the Vermont Superintendents
14 Association;

15 (E) a teacher, appointed by the Vermont-National Education
16 Association;

17 (F) the Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights
18 Commission or designee;

19 (G) the Executive Director of the Vermont Independent Schools
20 Association or designee;

1 (H) a member, appointed by the Vermont Coalition for Disability

2 Rights;

3 (I) a student member, appointed by the Education Justice Coalition of
4 Vermont;

5 (J) a student member, appointed by the Vermont Student Anti-
6 Racism Network;

7 (K) two members, appointed by Outright Vermont;

8 (L) a member, appointed by the Commission on Women;

9 (M) a member, appointed by the Office of Racial Equity;

10 (N) a member, appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic
11 and Sexual Violence;

12 (O) a member, appointed by the Vermont State Athletic Directors
13 Association (VSADA);

14 (P) a member, appointed by the National Association of Social
15 Workers-Vermont (NASW-VT); and

16 (Q) a parent member, appointed by the Vermont Family Network.

17 (2) Duties. The Advisory Council shall:

18 (A) Meet at least four and not more than 12 times per year.

19 (B) Review and coordinate school and statewide activities relating to
20 the prevention of and response to harassment, hazing, and bullying.

1 (C) Review the model harassment, hazing, and bullying prevention
2 policies developed by the Secretary every two years, beginning in 2025, and
3 recommend updates to the policies as necessary.

4 (D) Generate and distribute resources on hazing, harassment, and
5 bullying prevention and response to school professionals, including:

6 (i) best practices for reentry into and maintaining access to
7 educational spaces;

8 (ii) restorative practice framework for responding to hazing,
9 harassment, and bullying issues;

10 (iii) differentiated responses for complainants and accused
11 students with disabilities; and

12 (iv) annually soliciting input from students, parents, and schools
13 on hazing, harassment, and bullying.

14 (E) Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), annually on or before January
15 15, the Council shall submit a written report to House and Senate Committees
16 on Education, which shall hold a joint legislative hearing each legislative
17 session to review the report. The Council shall also submit the report to the
18 State Board of Education at the same time. The report shall contain:

19 (i) details on the past year's Advisory Council activities and the
20 upcoming year's priorities;

1 (ii) a summary of solicited input from students, parents, and
2 schools on hazing, harassment, and bullying;

3 (iii) a list of resources the Agency needs to support work related to
4 hazing, harassment, and bullying; and

5 (iv) any recommendations for legislative changes.

6 (3) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Council shall be
7 entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted
8 under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 12 meetings of the Council per year.

9 (f) Definitions. In this subchapter:

10 (1) “Educational institution” and “school” mean a public school or an
11 approved or recognized independent school as defined in section 11 of this
12 title.

13 (2) “Organization,” “pledging,” and “student” have the same meanings
14 as in section 570i of this title.

15 (3) “Harassment,” “hazing,” and “bullying” have the same meanings as
16 in subdivisions 11(a)(26), (30), and (32) of this title.

17 (4) “School board” means the board of directors or other governing
18 body of an educational institution when referring to an independent school.

19 Sec. 2 EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.