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H.310

Introduced by Representatives Toof of St. Albans Town, Birong of Vergennes,  
Austin of Colchester, Black of Essex, Bosch of Clarendon,  
Burditt of West Rutland, Burt of Cabot, Charlton of Chester,  
Coffin of Cavendish, Demar of Enosburgh, Dobrovich of  
Williamstown, Emmons of Springfield, Galfetti of Barre Town,  
Goslant of Northfield, Greer of Bennington, Hango of  
Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Harvey of Castleton, Hooper  
of Randolph, Hooper of Burlington, Kascenska of Burke,  
Krasnow of South Burlington, Laroche of Franklin, Luneau of  
St. Albans City, McCoy of Poultney, Morgan, M. of Milton,  
Morris of Springfield, Nielsen of Brandon, North of  
Ferrisburgh, Pinsonault of Dorset, Pritchard of Pawlet, Quimby  
of Lyndon, and Tagliavia of Corinth

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; harassment; courses of study; antisemitism awareness

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to (1) amend the  
definition of harassment in Title 16 to include ethnic harassment and  
antisemitic harassment and (2) require the Secretary of Education to develop  
curriculum and provide trainings, teaching materials, and technical assistance

1 for antisemitism awareness education in kindergarten through grade 12  
2 schools.

3 An act relating to education on the evolving nature of antisemitism

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

5 Sec. 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT

6 (a) Intent.

7 (1) To avoid the proliferation of antisemitic curricula, professional  
8 development trainings, and classroom culture in the Vermont education  
9 system, it is the intent of the General Assembly that Vermont establish a  
10 curriculum around the evolving nature of antisemitism and how it should be  
11 taught to educators, administrators, and students.

12 (2) It is the further intent of the General Assembly that Vermont  
13 establish antisemitism prevention training in Vermont schools.

14 (b) Findings.

15 (1) In 2023, according to the Anti-Defamation League, Vermont saw the  
16 second-highest increase in antisemitic hate crimes per capita in the nation.

17 (2) Also according to the Anti-Defamation League, between October 7,  
18 2023 and September 24, 2024, America saw a 200 percent increase in  
19 antisemitic hate crimes nationwide.

1           (3) According to the FBI, the United States saw 1,832 anti-Jewish hate  
2           crimes in 2023, up from 1,122 in 2022.

3           (4) Vermont currently lacks curricula and training for both students and  
4           educators to prevent the normalization of antisemitism in Vermont.

5       Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 11 is amended to read:

6       § 11. CLASSIFICATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

7       (a) As used in this title, unless the context otherwise clearly requires:

8   \* \* \*

9           (26)(A) “Harassment” means an incident or incidents of verbal, written,  
10       visual, or physical conduct, including any incident conducted by electronic  
11       means, based on or motivated by a student’s or a student’s family member’s  
12       actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, creed, color, national origin,  
13       marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability that has the  
14       purpose or effect of objectively and substantially undermining and detracting  
15       from or interfering with a student’s educational performance or access to  
16       school resources or creating an objectively intimidating, hostile, or offensive  
17       environment.

18           (B) “Harassment” includes conduct that violates subdivision (A) of  
19       this subdivision (26) and constitutes one or more of the following:

20                   (i) Sexual harassment, which means conduct that includes  
21       unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal,

1 written, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when one or both of the  
2 following occur:

3 (I) Submission to that conduct is made either explicitly or  
4 implicitly a term or condition of a student's education.

5 (II) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is  
6 used as a component of the basis for decisions affecting that student.

7 (ii) Racial harassment, which means conduct directed at the  
8 characteristics of a student's or a student's family member's actual or  
9 perceived race or color, and includes the use of epithets, stereotypes, racial  
10 slurs, comments, insults, derogatory remarks, gestures, threats, graffiti, display,  
11 or circulation of written or visual material, and taunts on manner of speech and  
12 negative references to racial customs.

13 (iii) Ethnic harassment, which means conduct directed at the  
14 characteristics of a student's or a student's family member's actual or  
15 perceived ethnicity, and includes the use of epithets, stereotypes, ethnic slurs,  
16 comments, insults, derogatory remarks, gestures, threats, graffiti, display, or  
17 circulation of written or visual material, and taunts on manner of speech and  
18 negative references to ethnic customs.

19 (iv) Antisemitic harassment, which means conduct directed at the  
20 characteristics of a student's or a student's family member's actual or  
21 perceived Jewish heritage, and includes the use of epithets, stereotypes,

1 antisemitic slurs, antisemitic libel, comments, insults, derogatory remarks,  
2 gestures, threats, graffiti, display, or circulation of written or visual material,  
3 taunts on manner of speech, and negative references to Jewish customs or the  
4 right to self-determination in the Jewish people's ancestral and indigenous  
5 homeland.

6 (v) Harassment of members of other protected categories, which  
7 means conduct directed at the characteristics of a student's or a student's  
8 family member's actual or perceived creed, national origin, marital status, sex,  
9 sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability and includes the use of  
10 epithets, stereotypes, slurs, comments, insults, derogatory remarks, gestures,  
11 threats, graffiti, display, or circulation of written or visual material, taunts on  
12 manner of speech, and negative references to customs related to any of these  
13 protected categories.

14 \* \* \*

15 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 914 is added to read:

16 § 914. ANTISEMITISM AWARENESS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

17 (a) The Secretary, in conjunction with Shalom Alliance of Vermont, where  
18 appropriate, shall develop a sequential antisemitism awareness education  
19 curriculum for elementary and secondary schools. The curriculum shall  
20 include teaching about the evolution, effects, ethics, and legal consequences of  
21 antisemitism in Vermont, the United States, and abroad.

1        (b) The Secretary shall:

2            (1) Provide for pre-service and in-service training programs for school  
3            personnel on antisemitism prevention and on the forms, effects, and legal  
4            consequences of antisemitism. At least one training program shall be made  
5            available in electronic format. Each superintendent shall determine the  
6            content, duration, and frequency of training on issues concerning antisemitism  
7            education for the districts in the superintendent's supervisory union.

8            (2) Provide teaching materials that are appropriate to the age and  
9            learning ability of the students.

10          (3) Provide technical assistance to local school districts for  
11          implementation of the curriculum.

12          (4) Encourage coordination of effort with existing community resources.

13        Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

14          This act shall take effect on passage.