

1 S.143

2 Introduced by Senator Baruth

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; hazing, harassment, and bullying prevention; Agency of
6 Education

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

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

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

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

14 § 570. HARASSMENT, HAZING, AND BULLYING PREVENTION
15 POLICIES

16 * * *

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

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

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

6 ~~(A) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or~~
7 ~~designee;~~

8 ~~(B) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards~~
9 ~~Association or designee;~~

10 ~~(C) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents~~
11 ~~Association or designee;~~

12 ~~(D) the President of the Vermont National Education Association or~~
13 ~~designee;~~

14 ~~(E) the Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights~~
15 ~~Commission or designee;~~

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

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

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

2 (e) Advisory Council on Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention in
3 Schools.

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

6 (A) the Secretary of Education or designee;

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

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

10 (D) a superintendent, appointed by the Vermont Superintendents
11 Association;

12 (E) a teacher, appointed by the Vermont-National Education
13 Association;

14 (F) the Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights
15 Commission or designee;

16 (G) the Executive Director of the Vermont Independent Schools
17 Association or designee;

18 (H) a member, appointed by the Vermont Coalition for Disability
19 Rights;

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

1 (J) a student member, appointed by the Vermont Student Anti-

2 Racism Network;

3 (K) a member, appointed by Outright Vermont;

4 (L) a member, appointed by the Office of Racial Equity;

5 (M) a member, appointed by the Vermont Network Against Domestic
6 and Sexual Violence;

7 (N) a member, appointed by the National Association of Social
8 Workers-Vermont (NASW-VT); and

9 (O) a parent member, appointed by the Vermont Family Network.

10 (2) Duties. The Advisory Council shall:

11 (A) Meet at least four and not more than six times per year.

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

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

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

19 (i) best practices for reentry into and maintaining access to
20 educational spaces;

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

3 (iii) differentiated responses for complainants and accused
4 students with disabilities; and

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

7 (E) Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), annually on or before January
8 15, the Council shall submit a written report to House and Senate Committees
9 on Education, which shall hold a joint legislative hearing each legislative
10 session to review the report. The Council shall also submit the report to the
11 State Board of Education at the same time. The report shall contain:

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

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

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

18 (iv) any recommendations for legislative changes.

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

1 (f) Definitions. In this subchapter:

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

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

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

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

11 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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