

11 An act relating to academic freedom in Vermont's postsecondary schools

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

13 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 187 is added to read:

14 § 187. ACADEMIC FREEDOM

15 (a) It is the policy of the State of Vermont to maintain and encourage full

16 freedom of inquiry, teaching, and research and the free exchange of ideas in

17 postsecondary schools that operate in Vermont in order to ensure such schools

18 allow for robust and uninhibited discussion of issues.

1 (b) Postsecondary schools that operate in Vermont shall adopt an academic
2 freedom policy that complies with the State policy contained in subsection (a)
3 of this section and that:

4 (1) provides faculty with the freedom of discussion of any material
5 relevant to any course that a faculty member has been assigned to teach;
6 (2) places no unreasonable restrictions upon instructional methods; and
7 (3) provides faculty with the same freedom of expression and speech
8 outside the workplace as private citizens are afforded; provided, however, that
9 the faculty member shall disclaim any representation on behalf of the
10 postsecondary school when such representation could reasonably be perceived
11 within the community where the utterance is made.

12 Sec. 2. POLICY ADOPTION

13 Postsecondary schools operating in Vermont shall adopt an academic
14 freedom policy consistent with Sec. 1 of this act on or before August 1, 2027.

15 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.