

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

S.232

An act relating to public libraries and the Department of Libraries

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

* * * Findings * * *

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) The State of Vermont and its communities depend on libraries as centers for learning, social connection, technological access, disaster preparedness and response, support of health care and social services, and numerous other vital services.

(2) As places of public accommodation, public libraries are obligated to ensure that their services, facilities, and resources are inclusive and accessible to all. However, many of Vermont’s existing library facilities require improvements in order to fulfill this obligation and meet programming needs.

(3) Early literacy is integral to student preparedness and success. Vermont’s Department of Libraries and statewide network of public libraries are uniquely suited to play a critical role in improving the literacy skills of students throughout the State.

(4) It is essential that the State raise awareness about public libraries and their offerings in order to ensure their continued beneficial impact and continued accessibility for all Vermont residents.

1 (5) For more than 125 years, public libraries have provided diverse
2 afterschool and summer programs and literacy opportunities to all children free
3 of charge. These programs often include literacy, arts, technology, or science
4 education; nutritious meals; and creative recreational activities.

5 * * * Vermont Libraries Day * * *

6 Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 379 is added to read:

7 § 379. VERMONT LIBRARIES DAY

8 The third Monday in the month of October is designated as “Vermont
9 Libraries Day.”

10 * * * Afterschool, Summer Reading, and Early Education Funding for Public

11 Libraries * * *

12 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 51 is amended to read:

13 § 51. UNIVERSAL AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER SPECIAL FUND

14 (a) The Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund is created, to be
15 managed by the Agency of Education. The cannabis sales tax revenue shall be
16 deposited into the Universal Afterschool and Summer Special Fund. The Fund
17 shall be used as follows:

18 (1) To establish a grant program that supports ~~the expansion of~~
19 sustaining or expanding universal afterschool and summer programs with a
20 focus on underserved areas of the State.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

* * *

(e) Annually, the advisory committee shall solicit public input on the grant program and procedures established pursuant to this section. The advisory committee shall hold a meeting to discuss the public input and any plans to implement recommended changes to the grant program.

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 4014 is amended to read:

§ 4014. EARLY EDUCATION

(a) The Secretary may grant funds for voluntary early education programs. The funds may be used for personnel costs, training of parents and staff, materials and educational equipment, and other costs related to early education programs, including training for public library staff.

(b) The Secretary shall solicit proposals for early education programs from community organizations serving young children. Community organizations include school districts; public libraries; other public agencies, including Head Start programs; and private agencies, including child care programs and parent-child centers.

* * *

* * * Department of Libraries; Duties * * *

Sec. 5. 22 V.S.A. § 605 is amended to read:

§ 605. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
LIBRARIES

