

H. 931 - Miscellaneous Education Bill
Intercollegiate Sexual Harm Prevention Council
April 13, 2026

Dear Chair Bongartz and Members of the Senate Education Committee.

In 2020, a legislative Task Force unanimously affirmed the need for a statewide body to address responses to sexual harm at Vermont's post-secondary institutions. In 2021, the General Assembly created the Vermont Intercollegiate Sexual Harm Prevention Council (16 V.S.A. § 2187). The purpose of the Council is to create a coordinated response to campus sexual harm across Vermont institutions of higher learning. Membership includes students, campus Title IX coordinators, community-based organizations, criminal-legal system stakeholders, and health care professionals.

For several years, small, one-time appropriations funded the administrative support as well as stipends to Council members who were not otherwise compensated for their participation, such as students. In FY 26, the General Assembly did not allocate any resources to support the work of the Council. Given the lack of state funding and administrative capacity for the Council, the statute must be amended to adjust the requirements and membership of the Council. We believe it is important for the Council to continue to convene and to advance important interdisciplinary work, but the charge must more accurately reflect the capacity of the Council.

To this end, we request that 16 V.S.A. § 2187 be amended in the miscellaneous education bill, H. 931. Please find attached a proposed strike all amendment that the University of Vermont and the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence jointly propose.

We would be happy to speak with your committee regarding this amendment and we thank you for your attention to this issue in the final weeks of the legislative session.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director of Government Relations
University of Vermont

Sarah Robinson
Co-Executive Director
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Title 16 : Education

Chapter 003 : State Board of Education Subchapter 002 : POSTSECONDARY SCHOOLS (Cite as: 16 V.S.A. § 183)

§ 183. Intercollegiate Sexual Harm Prevention Council

(a) Creation. There is created the Intercollegiate Sexual Harm Prevention Council to advance best practices for prevention and response to campus sexual harm across institutions of higher learning in Vermont.

(b) Membership. The Council shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The Title IX Coordinator or designee from each in-state higher education institution chartered in Vermont;
- (2) A peer educator or advocate selected by the Co-Chairs;
- (3) The Executive Director of the Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence or designee;
- (4) The Program Coordinator of the Vermont Forensic Nursing Program or designee; and
- (5) The Commissioner of Public Safety or designee.

(c) Duties. The Council shall:

- (1) share information about effective practices regarding sexual violence prevention and response, sexual health education, and strategies for mitigating sexual harm and secondary impacts of sexual harm on college campuses;
- (2) share information about campus-wide activities, publications, and services that promote a campus culture of respect to support the prevention of sexual harm;
- (3) share information about training opportunities addressing prevention and sexual assault response processes for college populations.

(d) Meetings.

- (1) The Council shall select co-chairs from among its members at the first meeting with one chair representing a public institution and one chair representing a private institution.
- (2) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.
- (3) The Council shall meet twice per year.
- (4) The co-chairs are responsible for administrative duties in support of the Council.
- (5) The Council may invite or consult other community representatives as appropriate