

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred House Bill No. 931
3 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous changes in education law”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: By striking out Sec. 13, 2025 Acts and Resolves No. 73, Sec. 7 (class
7 size minimums), and its reader assistance heading in their entirety and
8 inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 13 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 13. [Deleted.]

10 Second: By striking out Sec. 16, effective date, and its reader assistance
11 heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof **three new sections to be**
12 **Secs. 16, 17, and 18 and their reader assistance headings** to read as follows:

13 * * * Intercollegiate Sexual Harm Prevention Council * * *

14 Sec. 16. 16 V.S.A. § 183 is amended to read:

15 § 183. INTERCOLLEGIATE SEXUAL HARM PREVENTION COUNCIL

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

20 (b) Membership.

1 (†) The Council shall be composed of the following members:

2 (A)(1) ~~a the Title IX coordinator and a campus-based sexual harm~~
3 ~~prevention/education coordinator from an institution of higher learning,~~
4 ~~appointed by the Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges or designee from~~
5 ~~each postsecondary school chartered in Vermont with a physical campus~~
6 ~~located within Vermont;~~

7 (B)(2) ~~a Title IX coordinator and a campus-based sexual harm~~
8 ~~prevention/education coordinator from an institution of higher learning,~~
9 ~~appointed by the President of the University of Vermont a peer educator or~~
10 ~~advocate appointed by the Vice Provost for Student Affairs of the University~~
11 ~~of Vermont;~~

12 (C)(3) ~~a Title IX coordinator and a campus-based sexual harm~~
13 ~~prevention/education coordinator from an institution of higher learning,~~
14 ~~appointed by the President of the Association of Vermont Independent~~
15 ~~Colleges the Executive Director of the Network Against Domestic and Sexual~~
16 ~~Violence or designee;~~

17 (D)(4) ~~two community-based sexual violence advocates, appointed~~
18 ~~by the Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence the Program~~
19 ~~Coordinator of the Vermont Forensic Nursing Program or designee; and~~

1 ~~(E)(5) two law enforcement or public safety representatives with~~
2 ~~experience responding to and investigating campus sexual violence, appointed~~
3 ~~by the Commissioner of Public Safety; the Commissioner of Public Safety or~~
4 ~~designee.~~

5 ~~(F) three college students, at least one of whom has lived experience~~
6 ~~as a sexual violence survivor and one who represents a campus-based racial~~
7 ~~justice organization, appointed by the Center for Crime Victim Services;~~

8 ~~(G) a person with expertise in sexual violence responses within the~~
9 ~~lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community, appointed by the~~
10 ~~Center for Crime Victim Services;~~

11 ~~(H) a sexual assault nurse examiner, appointed by the Network~~
12 ~~Against Domestic and Sexual Violence;~~

13 ~~(I) a prosecutor with experience in prosecuting sexual violence cases~~
14 ~~from either the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs or the Office of~~
15 ~~the Attorney General, appointed by the Attorney General; and~~

16 ~~(J) an attorney with experience in sexual violence cases, appointed by~~
17 ~~the Defender General.~~

18 ~~(2) To ensure a council that is reflective of Vermont's college campuses,~~
19 ~~appointing authorities shall consider diversity when making appointments to~~
20 ~~the Council.~~

1 (c) Duties. The Council shall:

2 (1) ~~review the recommendations from the Report of the Vermont~~
3 ~~Campus Sexual Harm Task Force and develop prevention solutions to sexual~~
4 ~~harm based on those recommendations; [Repealed.]~~

5 (2) ~~implement interdisciplinary planning and information sharing to~~
6 ~~support sexual violence prevention programs on every college campus in~~
7 ~~Vermont; [Repealed.]~~

8 (3) ~~undertake an annual review of trends in aggregate data collected by~~
9 ~~institutions of higher learning regarding sexual violence on college campuses~~
10 ~~in Vermont; [Repealed.]~~

11 (4) ~~identify and share~~ information about effective practices ~~on~~ regarding
12 sexual violence prevention and response, sexual health education, and
13 strategies for mitigating sexual harm and secondary impacts of sexual harm on
14 college campuses in Vermont;

15 (5) ~~identify~~ share information about campus-wide activities,
16 publications, and services that promote a campus culture of respect to support
17 the prevention of sexual harm;

18 (6) ~~recommend statutory protections to the General Assembly not later~~
19 ~~than November 1, 2021 to ensure that survivors of sexual harm are not~~
20 ~~punished for reporting an incident of sexual violence due to alcohol, drug use,~~

1 ~~or other minor conduct violations occurring at or around the time of an assault;~~
2 ~~and [Repealed.]~~

3 (7) ~~create or promote annual share information about training~~
4 ~~opportunities addressing prevention and sexual assault response processes~~
5 ~~open to representatives from all Vermont postsecondary schools for college~~
6 ~~populations.~~

7 (d) ~~Assistance. The Council shall have the administrative and technical~~
8 ~~assistance of the Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. [Repealed.]~~

9 (e) ~~Report. On or before December 1, 2022 and annually thereafter, the~~
10 ~~Council shall submit a written report to the General Assembly with a summary~~
11 ~~of activities and any recommendations for legislative action. [Repealed.]~~

12 (f) Meetings.

13 (1) The Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence shall call the
14 first meeting of the Council to occur on or before ~~July 15, 2024~~ November 15,
15 2026.

16 (2) The Council shall select ~~a chair~~ co-chairs from among its members
17 at the first meeting, with one chair representing a public postsecondary school
18 and one chair representing a private postsecondary school.

19 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

20 (4) The Council shall meet ~~quarterly~~ twice per year.

1 ~~Board and the House and Senate Committees on Education. The Council shall~~
2 ~~include:~~

3 ~~(A) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or~~
4 ~~designee;~~

5 ~~(B) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association~~
6 ~~or designee;~~

7 ~~(C) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents~~
8 ~~Association or designee;~~

9 ~~(D) the President of the Vermont National Education Association or~~
10 ~~designee;~~

11 ~~(E) the Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights~~
12 ~~Commission or designee;~~

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

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

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

19 (e) Advisory Council on Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying Prevention in
20 Schools.

- 1 (1) Membership. The Advisory Council shall be composed of the
2 following members:
- 3 (A) the Secretary of Education or designee;
4 (B) a principal, appointed by the Vermont Principals' Association;
5 (C) a school board member, appointed by the Vermont School
6 Boards Association;
7 (D) a superintendent, appointed by the Vermont Superintendents
8 Association;
9 (E) a teacher, appointed by the Vermont-National Education
10 Association;
11 (F) the Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights
12 Commission or designee;
13 (G) the Executive Director of the Vermont Independent Schools
14 Association or designee;
15 (H) a member, appointed by the Vermont Coalition for Disability
16 Rights;
17 (I) a student member, appointed by the Vermont Student Anti-
18 Racism Network;
19 (J) a student member, appointed by Outright Vermont;
20 (K) a member, appointed by the Commission on Women;

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

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

4 (N) a parent or caregiver member, appointed by the Vermont Family
5 Network.

6 (2) Duties. The Advisory Council shall:

7 (A) meet at least four and not more than 12 times per year;

8 (B) review and coordinate school and statewide activities relating to
9 the prevention of and response to harassment, hazing, and bullying;

10 (C) review the model harassment, hazing, and bullying prevention
11 policies developed by the Secretary every two years, beginning in 2026, and
12 recommend updates to the policies as necessary;

13 (D) generate and distribute to school professionals resources on
14 hazing, harassment, and bullying prevention and response;

15 (E) annually solicit input from students, parents, and schools on
16 hazing, harassment, and bullying;

17 (F) notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), annually on or before January
18 15, submit a written report to House and Senate Committees on Education,
19 which shall hold a joint legislative hearing each legislative session to review

1 the report. The Council shall also submit the report to the State Board of
2 Education at the same time.

3 (3) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Council shall be
4 entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted
5 under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than 12 meetings of the Council per year
6 from funds appropriated to the Agency of Education.

7 ~~(e)~~(f) Definitions. In this subchapter:

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

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

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

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

17 **Sec. 18. APPROPRIATION**

18 The sum of \$20,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the
19 Agency of Education in fiscal year 2027 for per diem compensation and

1 reimbursement expenses for the Advisory Council on Harassment, Hazing, and
2 Bullying Prevention as authorized pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 570(e)(3).

3 * * * Effective Date * * *

4 Sec. 19. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

6

7

8

9

10

11

12 (Committee vote: _____)

13

14

Senator _____

15

FOR THE COMMITTEE