

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 232
3 entitled “An act relating to public libraries and the Department of Libraries”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * Findings * * *

8 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

9 The General Assembly finds:

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

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

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

1 ~~(2) Cannabis~~ Ninety-five percent of the cannabis sales tax revenue
2 deposited in the Fund shall be used by the Agency of Education to support a
3 mixed delivery system for afterschool and summer programming. Eligible
4 recipients can be public, private, or nonprofit organizations.

5 (2) Five percent of the cannabis sales tax revenue deposited in the Fund
6 shall be used by the Department of Libraries to support afterschool and
7 summer programming at libraries.

8 (3) The Agency and Department programs shall be subject to the
9 following:

10 (A) Grants may be used for technical assistance, program
11 implementation, program expansion, program sustainability, and related costs.

12 (B) Funds may be used to directly target communities with low
13 existing capacity to serve youth in afterschool and summer settings.

14 (C) The award of grants and any subsequent contract or written
15 agreement issued pursuant to the award of a grant shall require that a grantee
16 does not discriminate, and prohibits its employees, agents, subcontractors, and
17 other service providers from discriminating, on the basis of race, creed, color,
18 national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or
19 disability.

20 (D) The Agency may use up to \$500,000.00 annually for
21 administrative costs to allow for the support of the grant program and technical

1 assistance to communities. This ~~could~~ may include subcontracts to support the
2 grant program.

3 (b) An advisory committee is created to support the Secretary in
4 administering the funds. The Agency shall provide administrative and
5 technical support to the advisory committee. The advisory committee shall be
6 composed of:

7 * * *

8 (7) the Vermont Afterschool Executive Director or designee; ~~and~~

9 (8) a representative from the Governor's office; and

10 (9) the State Librarian or designee.

11 * * *

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

13 § 4014. EARLY EDUCATION

14 (a) The Secretary may grant funds for voluntary early education programs.

15 The funds may be used for personnel costs, training of parents and staff,
16 materials and educational equipment, and other costs related to early education
17 programs, including training for public library staff.

18 (b) The Secretary shall solicit proposals for early education programs from
19 community organizations serving young children. Community organizations
20 include school districts; public libraries; other public agencies, including Head

1 Start programs; and private agencies, including child care programs and
2 parent-child centers.

3 * * *

4 * * * Department of Libraries; Duties * * *

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

6 § 605. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
7 LIBRARIES

8 The duties and functions of the Department of Libraries shall be to provide,
9 administer, and maintain:

10 * * *

11 (2) A digital or physical collection of federal documents.

12 (3) An information and reference service to State government, including
13 a comprehensive digital or physical collection of current information relating
14 to matters of public policy and topics pertinent to State government.

15 (4) A general library collection of a sufficient size and scope to
16 reinforce and supplement the resources of local and regional libraries. ~~All~~
17 ~~materials of the Department of Libraries~~ The collection may be composed of
18 digital and physical materials and shall be available for free circulation to all
19 citizens, institutions, and organizations under procedures adopted by the State
20 Librarian except that the State Librarian may restrict rare or reference-type
21 materials to one location. The Department shall arrange, classify, and catalog

1 all materials in its custody and provide for their safekeeping and shall rebind
2 books as needed. The Department shall provide ~~service~~ materials to other
3 libraries in the State, schools, and individuals ~~and may provide service by mail~~
4 ~~or book wagon or otherwise~~ through interlibrary loan and shall encourage the
5 sharing of library materials between libraries in Vermont and nationally
6 through interlibrary loan.

7 (5) A service of advice and consultation to all libraries in the State, in
8 order to assist them in realizing their potential. ~~This service shall be provided~~
9 ~~at a regional level as well as at the State level.~~ The Department may provide
10 centralized cataloging and other related technical services to libraries in the
11 State to the extent feasible.

12 * * *

13 Sec. 6. 22 V.S.A. § 143 is amended to read:

14 § 143. TRUSTEES

15 (a) Unless a municipality that has established or shall establish a public
16 library votes at its annual meeting to elect a board of trustees, the governing
17 body of the municipality shall appoint the trustees. The appointment or
18 election of the trustees shall continue in effect until changed at an annual
19 meeting of the municipality. When trustees are first chosen, they shall be
20 elected or appointed for staggered terms. This subsection shall not be

1 construed to apply to public libraries that are privately established, chartered,
2 or incorporated pursuant to subchapter 2 of this chapter.

3 * * *

4 * * * Municipal Bonds; Improvements to Public Libraries * * *

5 Sec. 7. 24 V.S.A. § 1752a is amended to read:

6 § 1752a. PUBLIC LIBRARIES; PRIVATELY OWNED MUNICIPALITY-
7 SUPPORTED LIBRARIES

8 By a majority vote of those present and voting at an annual or special
9 meeting warned for the purpose, a municipality may issue municipal bonds
10 under this chapter for the cost of capital improvements to any public library, as
11 defined in 22 V.S.A. § 101, including any privately owned municipality-
12 supported library situated within the municipality for use of residents of the
13 municipality; and ~~such~~ the improvements shall be considered “improvements”
14 for the purposes of this chapter.

15 * * * Repeal * * *

16 Sec. 8. REPEAL

17 22 V.S.A. § 608 (Audio-Visual Revolving Fund) is repealed.

18 * * * Effective Date * * *

19 Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

21

1

2 (Committee vote: _____)

3

4

Senator _____

5

FOR THE COMMITTEE