

1 S.133

2 Introduced by Committee on Education

3 Date: March 16, 2023

4 Subject: Education; miscellaneous

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make
6 miscellaneous changes to education law, including: (1) requiring the Agency
7 of Education to contract with an independent third-party to conduct a
8 curriculum audit of at least four supervisory unions with a high percentage of
9 students who are approved for free and reduced-price meals; (2) creating a
10 proficiency-based learning study committee; (3) appropriating \$350,000.00 to
11 the Agency of Tourism and Marketing to promote Vermont postsecondary
12 schools; and (4) requiring the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in
13 Vermont to study public safety protections in libraries.

14 An act relating to miscellaneous changes to education law

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

16 * * * Curriculum and Academic Standards * * *

17 ~~Sec. 1. CURRICULUM AUDIT; REPORT~~

18 ~~(a) Curriculum audit. All Vermont children are entitled to substantially~~

19 ~~equal educational opportunities. In order to better understand the breadth of~~

1 ~~course offerings and curriculum differences across the State, the Agency of~~
2 Education shall contract with an independent third party to conduct and report
3 on a curriculum audit of at least four supervisory unions or supervisory
4 districts, all of which shall have a high percentage of students who are
5 approved for free and reduced-price school meals. The curriculum audit shall
6 include all approved independent schools geographically located within the
7 supervisory union or supervisory districts selected. On or before January 15,
8 2024, the Agency shall submit a copy of the report to the House and Senate
9 Committees on Education.

10 (b) Appropriation. The sum of \$200,000.00 is appropriated from the
11 General Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2024 for the purpose
12 of contracting with an independent third party to conduct a curriculum audit as
13 described in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 1. [Deleted.]

14 Sec. 2. PROFICIENCY-BASED LEARNING; STUDY COMMITTEE

15 (a) Creation. There is created the Proficiency-Based Learning Study
16 Committee to study proficiency-based learning and proficiency-based
17 graduation requirements as they are used in Vermont, as required by the
18 Agency of Education, Education Quality Standards (CVR 22-000-003), and to
19 make recommendations for whether proficiency-based learning is the most
20 effective way to ensure Vermont students attain rigorous standards in high-

1 quality programs or whether there are other systems of instruction, assessment,
2 grading, and academic reporting that would better serve Vermont students.

3 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following
4 members:

5 (1) the Secretary of Education or designee;

6 (2) the Chair of the State Board of Education or designee;

7 (3) the Executive Director of the Vermont Principals' Association or
8 designee;

9 (4) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association
10 or designee;

11 (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or
12 designee; and

13 (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education
14 Association or designee.

15 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall study proficiency-based
16 learning and proficiency-based graduation requirements, including the
17 following issues:

18 (1) the statewide implementation of proficiency-based learning and
19 proficiency-based graduation requirements and to what extent there is
20 consistency in application across all supervisory unions;

21 (2) other states' experience with proficiency-based learning;

1 (3) alternatives to proficiency-based learning, including other systems of
2 instruction, assessment, grading, and academic reporting; and

3 (4) recommendations for Vermont assessment standards and the efforts
4 needed to ensure successful and substantially equal implementation across
5 Vermont.

6 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
7 and legal assistance of the Vermont Agency of Education.

8 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2024, the Committee shall submit a
9 written report to House and Senate Committees on Education with its findings
10 and any recommendations for legislative action.

11 (f) Meetings.

12 (1) The Secretary of Education or designee shall call the first meeting of
13 the Committee to occur on or before August 15, 2023.

14 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the
15 first meeting.

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

17 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 16, 2024.

~~*** Postsecondary School Marketing ***~~

~~Sec. 3. VERMONT POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL MARKETING~~

~~The sum of \$350,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Agency of Tourism and Marketing in fiscal year 2024 for the purpose of marketing Vermont postsecondary schools.~~

Sec. 3. [Deleted.]

*** Public Safety in Libraries ***

Sec. 4. 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 66, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. WORKING GROUP ON THE STATUS OF LIBRARIES IN
VERMONT; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont to study and report on the statewide status of Vermont's libraries. The Working Group is formed with the intent of strengthening and supporting libraries of all sizes and improving library services for the public.

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

(1) the State Librarian;

(2) the President of the Vermont Library Association or designee;

(3) the Executive Director of the Vermont Humanities Council or

designee;

1 (4) three representatives of public libraries, who shall be from libraries
2 of different sizes and from different regions of the State, appointed by the
3 State Librarian;

4 (5) two representatives of public school libraries, who shall be from
5 schools of different sizes and from different regions of the State, appointed by
6 the Vermont School Library Association;

7 (6) two representatives of college and university libraries, appointed by
8 the President of the College and Special Libraries Section of the Vermont
9 Library Association; and

10 (7) one public library trustee, appointed by the President of the Friends
11 and Trustees Section of the Vermont Library Association.

12 (c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall study:

13 (1) library services for specific segments of the Vermont population,
14 including senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, youths and children,
15 immigrant and migrant communities, and people living in poverty;

16 (2) the role that libraries play in emergency preparedness, cultural
17 diversity and inclusion, public health and safety, community identity and
18 resiliency, economic development, and access to public programs and services;

19 (3) the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on library operations and
20 services; and

1 (4) whether current law provides adequate public safety protections for
2 libraries; and

3 ~~(4)~~(5) the current overall status of Vermont libraries, which may include
4 information related to programming, collections, facilities, technology, and
5 staffing.

6 (A) Programming. The Working Group may study the types and
7 frequency of library programs, attendance at library programs, and whether
8 library programs are meeting community needs. The study of programming
9 may include an assessment of public engagement and outreach surrounding
10 library programming as well as the opportunities for nonlibrary programs and
11 groups to access Vermont libraries.

12 (B) Collections. The Working Group may study the size and
13 diversity of library holdings and assess the strengths and gaps in materials
14 available to Vermonters. The study of collections may include an assessment
15 of how libraries may best share resources across differing libraries and
16 communities, whether libraries offer community-specific resources, and
17 whether libraries maintain special collections or historical artifacts.

18 (C) Facilities. The Working Group may study whether library
19 facilities and buildings could be improved with regard to energy efficiency,
20 accessibility, flexibility, human health and safety, historic preservation, and
21 intergenerational needs.

1 (D) Technology. The Working Group may study whether Vermont
2 libraries have sufficient access to basic technological resources, ~~cyber-security~~
3 cybersecurity resources, high-speed Internet, electronic catalogs, interlibrary
4 loan and other interoperable systems, and appropriate hardware and software.

5 (E) Staff. The Working Group may study staffing levels at Vermont
6 libraries, whether staffing levels are sufficient to meet community needs,
7 whether library staff compensation and benefits are sufficient, how libraries
8 rely on volunteers, and what resources are available for workforce
9 development and training of library staff.

10 (d) Public input. As part of the study and report, the Working Group shall
11 solicit feedback from the general public and library users around the State.
12 The Working Group may examine models for library management and
13 organization in other states, including the formation of statewide service
14 networks.

15 (e) Data to be used. The data used in the analysis of library services and
16 operations may be from 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
17 Postpandemic data may also be used to assess the status of library services and
18 operations.

19 (f) Consultation with the Board of Libraries. The Working Group may
20 solicit feedback from the Board of Libraries.

1 (g) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative,
2 technical, and legal assistance of the Department of Libraries.

3 (h) Report. On or before ~~December 20, 2023~~ *November 1, 2023*
4 *December 20, 2023*, the Working Group shall submit a report to the House and
5 Senate Committees on Education. The report shall contain:

6 (1) specific and detailed findings and proposals concerning the issues set
7 forth in subsection (c) of this section, including recommendations for
8 legislative action regarding public safety protections on library property;

9 (2) recommendations for updating the statutes, rules, standards, and the
10 governance structures of Vermont libraries to ensure equitable access for
11 Vermont residents, efficient use of resources, and quality in the provision of
12 services;

13 (3) recommendations related to the funding needs of Vermont libraries,
14 including capital, ongoing, and special funding; and

15 (4) any other information or recommendations that the Working Group
16 may deem necessary.

17 (i) Meetings.

18 (1) The State Librarian shall be the Chair of the Working Group.

19 (2) The Chair shall call the first meeting of the Working Group to occur
20 within 45 days after the effective date of this act.

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

