

1 Introduced by Committee on Education  
2 Referred to Committee on  
3 Date:  
4 Subject: Education; miscellaneous  
5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make  
6 miscellaneous changes to education law, including [to come]

7 An act relating to making miscellaneous changes to education laws

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

9 \* \* \* Postsecondary Educational Institutions; Closing \* \* \*

10 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 175 is amended to read:

11 § 175. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; CLOSING

12 (a)(1) The Association of Vermont Independent Colleges (AVIC) shall  
13 maintain a memorandum of understanding with each covered college, which  
14 are its member colleges and each college that was a member of AVIC within  
15 the prior year, under which each covered college agrees to:

16 (A) upon the request of AVIC, properly administer the student  
17 academic records of a covered college that fails to comply with the  
18 requirements of this subsection; and

19 (B) contribute on an equitable basis and in a manner determined in  
20 the sole discretion of AVIC to the costs of another covered college or other

1 entity selected by AVIC maintaining the records of a covered college that fails  
2 to comply with the requirements of this subsection.

3 (2)(A) If an institution of higher education is placed on probation by its  
4 accrediting agency, the institution shall:

5 (i) not later than five business days after learning that it has been  
6 placed on probation, inform the State Board of Education of its status, and

7 (ii) not later than 60 days after being placed on probation, submit  
8 an academic record plan for students to the State Board for approval.

9 (B) The academic record plan shall include an agreement with an  
10 institution of higher education or other entity to act as a repository for the  
11 institution's records, with funds set aside, if necessary, for the permanent  
12 maintenance of the academic records.

13 (C) If the State Board does not approve the plan, the State may take  
14 action under subsections (d) and (e) of this section.

15 (3) When an institution of higher education, whether or not chartered in  
16 this State, proposes to discontinue the regular course of instruction, either  
17 permanently or for a temporary period other than a customary vacation period,  
18 the institution shall:

19 (1)(A) promptly inform the State Board;

1           ~~(2)~~(B) prepare the academic record of each current and former student in  
2 a form satisfactory to the State Board and including interpretive information  
3 required by the Board; and

4           ~~(3)~~(C) deliver the records to a person designated by the State Board to  
5 act as permanent repository for the institution's records, together with the  
6 reasonable cost of entering and maintaining the records.

7           (b) Persons acting as a repository may microfilm records received under  
8 this section.

9           (c) Students and former students of the discontinuing institution shall be  
10 entitled to verified copies of their academic records upon payment of a  
11 reasonable fee.

12           (d) When an institution of higher education is unable or unwilling to  
13 comply substantially with the record preparation and delivery requirements of  
14 subsection (a) of this section, the State Board shall bring an action in Superior  
15 Court to compel compliance with this section, and may in a proper case obtain  
16 temporary custody of the records.

17           (e) When an institution of higher education is unable or unwilling to  
18 comply with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the State Board  
19 may expend State funds necessary to ensure the proper storage and availability  
20 of the institution's records. The Attorney General shall then seek recovery  
21 under this subsection, in the name of the State, of all of the State's incurred

1 costs and expenses, including attorney’s fees, arising from the failure to  
2 comply. Claims under this subsection shall be a lien on all the property of a  
3 defaulting institution, until all claims under this subsection are satisfied. The  
4 lien shall take effect from the date of filing notice thereof in the records of the  
5 town or towns where property of the defaulting institution is located.

6 (f) The State Board shall adopt rules under this section for its proper  
7 administration. The rules may include provisions for preparing and  
8 maintaining transferred records. Persons acting as a repository of records are  
9 bound only by maintenance provisions to which they agreed before receiving  
10 transferred records.

11 ~~(g) The Association of Vermont Independent Colleges (AVIC) shall~~  
12 ~~maintain a memorandum of understanding with each of its member colleges~~  
13 ~~under which each member college agrees to:~~

14 ~~(1) upon the request of AVIC, properly administer the student records of~~  
15 ~~a member college that fails to comply with the requirements of subsection (a)~~  
16 ~~of this section; and~~

17 ~~(2) contribute on an equitable basis and in a manner determined in the~~  
18 ~~sole discretion of AVIC to the costs of another AVIC member or other entity~~

1 ~~selected by AVIC maintaining the records of a member college that fails to~~  
2 ~~comply with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.~~

3 Sec. 2. TRANSITION

4 On or before August 1, 2020, the Association of Vermont Independent  
5 Colleges (AVIC) shall amend its memorandum of understanding with its  
6 member colleges under 16 V.S.A. § 175 to require that each member college  
7 that terminates its membership with AVIC continue to comply with the terms  
8 of the memorandum for a period of one year after the date of termination.

9 \* \* \* Oath; Repeal \* \* \*

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

11 § 12. OATH

12 ~~A superintendent, a principal or teacher in a public school of the State, a~~  
13 ~~professor, instructor, or teacher who will be employed by a university or~~  
14 ~~college in the State that is supported in whole or in part by public funds, or a~~  
15 ~~headmaster or teacher who will be employed by an independent school or other~~  
16 ~~educational institution accepted by the Agency as furnishing equivalent~~  
17 ~~education, before entering upon the discharge of his or her duties, shall~~  
18 ~~subscribe to an oath or affirmation to support the U.S. Constitution, the~~  
19 ~~Vermont Constitution, and all State and federal laws; provided, however, that~~  
20 ~~an oath shall not be required of any person who is a citizen of a foreign~~  
21 ~~country. [Repealed.]~~



1                           \* \* \* Proficiency-based Education; Data Collection \* \* \*

2       Sec. 6. [to come]

3                                           \* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

4       Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

5           This act shall take effect on passage.