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H.716

Introduced by Representatives Marcotte of Coventry and Jerome of Brandon

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; career and technical education; flexible pathways

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make changes to Vermont’s career and technical education (CTE) system, including:

- (1) basing the tuition charged to a school district on the district’s prior year full-time equivalent student enrollment in a CTE center;
- (2) requiring school districts to provide students in grades six through eight with career enrichment and exposure, including at least one annual visit to the school district’s regional career and technical education center;
- (3) requiring school districts to provide students enrolled in grades nine and 10 a genuine opportunity to participate fully in pre-tech and exploratory career and technical courses;
- (4) requiring the Agency of Education to create and supervisory unions to adopt a model comprehensive career development policy;
- (5) changing oversight of CTE from the State Board of Education to the Secretary of Education;

1 (6) requiring the Vermont State Colleges Corporation to maintain
2 program and course articulation agreements with all secondary CTE centers in
3 certain programs;

4 (7) articulating the intent to include CTEs in updates to State aid for
5 school construction; and

6 (8) requiring the Agency of Education to develop a statewide school
7 calendar.

8 An act relating to career and technical education

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

10 * * * CTE Tuition * * *

11 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 1552 is amended to read:

12 § 1552. SECONDARY STUDENT TUITION

13 * * *

14 (d) The tuition charged to a school district within Vermont shall be based
15 on the ~~average~~ of the district's ~~three prior years'~~ year's full-time equivalent
16 student enrollment in the career technical center.

17 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1561 is amended to read:

18 § 1561. TUITION REDUCTION

19 (a) In this section:

1 (1) “Student” means a Vermont secondary student without a diploma
2 regardless of age and regardless of whether the student is enrolled in a high
3 school in Vermont.

4 (2) “Full-time equivalent student” means ~~the average of~~ a Vermont
5 school district’s ~~three prior years’~~ year’s full-time equivalent enrollment of
6 students in the career technical center.

7 * * *

8 * * * CTE Opportunities for Grades Six through 10 * * *

9 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 1541a is amended to read:

10 § 1541a. RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL BOARDS IN SENDING
11 DISTRICTS

12 (a) A school board of a sending district that offers public education in
13 grade 11 or 12 shall:

14 (1) Provide students enrolled in grades 11 and 12 with a genuine
15 opportunity to participate fully and to benefit from career technical education.

16 (2) Provide students enrolled in programs at career technical centers
17 transportation between its high school building and the career technical center
18 or centers in its designated service region or regions.

19 (3) If the career technical center for the region does not offer a course of
20 study desired by a student, pay tuition on behalf of that student who applies
21 and is accepted to another career technical center that does offer such a course

1 of study. The district of residence is not responsible for providing
2 transportation for a student attending a career technical center under this
3 subdivision.

4 (4) Provide students in grades six through eight with career enrichment
5 and exposure, including at least one annual visit to the school district's
6 regional career and technical education center.

7 (5) Provide students enrolled in grades nine and 10 a genuine
8 opportunity to participate fully in pre-tech and exploratory career and technical
9 courses.

10 * * *

11 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 1547 is added to read:

12 § 1547. COMPREHENSIVE CAREER DEVELOPMENT POLICY

13 (a) The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of
14 the Department of Labor, shall develop a model Comprehensive Career
15 Development Policy and implementation plan for all secondary students. The
16 Secretary shall review the model policy not less than every five years and
17 make a determination as to whether the policy needs updating. The model
18 policy shall address the following:

19 (1) the role of CTE centers in providing career-focused education;

20 (2) how each supervisory union's career education and counseling
21 policy practices align with the CTE programs of study;

1 (3) how supervisory unions will work with CTE centers and other
2 supervisory unions in the CTE region to develop common and joint courses
3 and approaches to career development, career exploration, and CTE exposure;

4 (4) a plan for meeting the pre-tech and exploratory CTE requirements
5 under subdivision 1541a(a)(5) of this title; and

6 (5) a plan for meeting the career enrichment and exposure requirements
7 under subdivision 1541a(a)(4) of this title.

8 (b) Each supervisory union board shall develop, adopt, and ensure
9 implementation of a policy and plan for comprehensive career development
10 that is consistent with and at least as comprehensive as the model policy
11 developed by the Secretary. Any supervisory union board that fails to adopt
12 such a policy or procedures shall be presumed to have adopted the most current
13 model policy and procedures published by the Secretary.

14 (c) If the Secretary determines that a supervisory union or school district is
15 failing to comply with the policy required under this section, the Secretary
16 shall describe in writing actions that a district or supervisory union shall take in
17 order to comply with the required policy. If the supervisory union or school
18 district fails to comply or make sufficient progress within one year after the
19 determination by the Secretary, the Secretary shall recommend to the State
20 Board one or more of the actions contained in subdivisions 165(b)(1)–(5).

1 Sec. 5. DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE CAREER

2 DEVELOPMENT POLICY; REPORT

3 (a) On or before August 1, 2024, the Secretary of Education shall develop
4 and issue the model Comprehensive Career Development Policy required
5 under 16 V.S.A. § 1547.

6 (b) On or before September 15 2024, each supervisory union shall develop,
7 adopt, and ensure implementation of a policy and plan for comprehensive
8 career development that is consistent with and at least as comprehensive as the
9 model policy developed by the Secretary, as required under 16 V.S.A. § 1547.

10 (c) On or before December 1, 2024, the Agency of Education shall issue a
11 written report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic
12 Development, on Education, and on Ways and Means and the Senate
13 Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on
14 Education, and on Finance with the following information regarding the policy
15 required under 16 V.S.A. § 1547:

16 (1) a list of supervisory unions that have adopted the required policy;

17 (2) a list of supervisory unions that have failed to adopt the required
18 policy and have therefore been deemed to have adopted the model policy
19 developed by the Secretary; and

20 (3) any efforts the Agency has undertaken to help supervisory unions
21 and school districts come into compliance with the required policy.

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* * * Construction Aid * * *

Sec. 6. CONSTRUCTION AID; CAREER AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION

It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that career and technical education centers and their associated facilities are appropriately and equitably included in future updates to the State's construction aid program under 16 V.S.A. chapter 123.

* * * CTE Oversight * * *

Sec. 7. 16 V.S.A. chapter 37, subchapter 2 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 37. CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Subchapter 2. ~~State Board of Education~~ Oversight of Career and Technical Education

* * *

§ 1531. RESPONSIBILITY OF ~~STATE BOARD~~ SECRETARY

(a) The ~~State Board~~ Secretary has overall responsibility for the effectiveness of career technical education. This requires the ~~Board~~ Secretary to collect suitable information and to take appropriate steps within ~~its~~ the Secretary's legal, financial, and personnel resources to ensure that:

* * *

(b) In order to provide regional career technical education services efficiently, the ~~State Board~~ Secretary shall designate a service region for each

1 career technical center. However, the ~~Board~~ Secretary may designate a service
2 region for two or more comprehensive high schools if that region is not served
3 by a career technical center.

4 (c) For a school district that is geographically isolated from a Vermont
5 career technical center, the ~~State Board~~ Secretary may approve a career
6 technical center in another state as the career technical center that district
7 students may attend. In this case, the school district shall receive
8 transportation assistance pursuant to section 1563 of this title and tuition
9 assistance pursuant to subsection 1561(c) of this title. Any student who is a
10 resident in the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union and who is enrolled at
11 public expense in the Charles H. McCann Technical School or the Franklin
12 County Technical School shall be considered to be attending an approved
13 career technical center in another state pursuant to this subsection, and, if the
14 student is from a school district eligible for a merger support grant pursuant to
15 section 4015 of this title or a small school weight pursuant to section 4010 of
16 this title, the student's full-time equivalency shall be computed according to
17 time attending the school.

18 § 1532. MINIMUM STANDARDS; MEASUREMENT OF STANDARDS

19 (a) The ~~State Board~~ Agency of Education shall adopt by rule:

1 (1) Minimum standards for the operation and performance of career
2 technical centers that include the education quality standards adopted by the
3 State Board under subdivision 164(9) and section 165 of this title.

4 (2) Standards for student performance based on the standards adopted
5 by the State Board under subdivision 164(9) of this title and standards for
6 industry recognized credentials.

7 * * *

8 (b) The following shall be adopted by procedure or rule:

9 (1) ~~competencies~~ proficiencies that graduates of each kind of career
10 technical program should be able to demonstrate, including career technical
11 competencies necessary for the student's intended employment;

12 (2) minimum admissions ~~competencies~~ proficiencies for entrance into
13 each career technical course of study;

14 * * *

15 § 1533. CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER EVALUATION

16 (a) At least once in each period of five years, ~~and in coordination with the~~
17 ~~Vermont Advisory Council on Career Technical Education,~~ the Secretary shall
18 evaluate the effectiveness of each career technical center in the State. The
19 ~~State Board~~ Secretary by rule shall prescribe the method for conducting these
20 evaluations.

1 (b) Evaluations of career technical centers shall consider at least the
2 following areas:

3 (1) compliance with this chapter and the rules of the ~~State Board~~
4 Secretary;

5 (2) the condition and suitability of the facility and its equipment;

6 (3) the quality of the course of study, including faculty development
7 policies and instruction;

8 (4) the overall success of the center at combining academic education,
9 skill training, and employability trait development into its program;

10 (5) the overall success of the center in providing regionwide services
11 and a flexible response to student needs, integrating its courses of study into a
12 coherent program, and coordinating its program with postsecondary career
13 technical education services;

14 (6) the satisfaction of the center's customer groups, including graduates,
15 sending schools, and local industry;

16 (7) the adequacy and effectiveness of the center in meeting the
17 educational and employment needs of all its eligible students, including its
18 success in taking steps to encourage each student to consider enrolling in
19 courses not traditional for that student's gender; and

20 (8) alignment of the program, and other center operations, to Agency of
21 Education, District Quality Standards (CVR 23-020).

1 (c) [Repealed.]

2 § 1534. COURSE OF STUDY EVALUATION

3 (a) At least once in each period of five years, ~~and in coordination with the~~
4 ~~Vermont Advisory Council on Career Technical Education,~~ the Secretary shall
5 evaluate the effectiveness of each course of study offered by any career
6 technical center in the State. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary by rule shall prescribe
7 the method for conducting these evaluations.

8 * * *

9 Sec. 8. TRANSFER OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; TRANSFER OF
10 RULES

11 (a) The statutory authority to adopt rules by the State Board of Education
12 pertaining to the oversight of career and technical education adopted under
13 16 V.S.A. chapter 37 and 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 is transferred from the State
14 Board of Education to the Agency of Education.

15 (b) All rules pertaining to career and technical education adopted by the
16 State Board of Education under 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 prior to July 1, 2024 shall
17 be deemed the rules of the Agency of Education and remain in effect until
18 amended or repealed by the Agency of Education pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter
19 25.

1 (c) The Agency of Education shall provide notice of the transfer to the
2 Secretary of State and the Legislative Committee on Administrative rules in
3 accordance with 3 V.S.A. § 848(d)(2).

4 * * * Postsecondary Program Articulation Agreements * * *

5 Sec. 9. 16 V.S.A. § 1594 is added to read:

6 § 1594. POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT

7 (a) In order to promote a seamless pathway from CTE to postsecondary
8 opportunities, the Vermont State Colleges Corporation shall maintain program
9 and course articulation agreements with all secondary CTE centers in the
10 following programs:

11 (1) manufacturing;

12 (2) engineering;

13 (3) health sciences; and

14 (4) education.

15 (b) As used in this section, “articulation agreements” means an officially
16 approved agreement between a secondary CTE center and the Vermont State
17 Colleges Corporation that allows secondary CTE students to earn college
18 credit for the work they complete at a secondary CTE center.

1 * * * School Calendar * * *

2 Sec. 10. STATEWIDE SCHOOL CALENDAR

3 (a) On or before September 1, 2024, the Secretary of Education shall
4 develop and publish a statewide calendar for the public schools of the State,
5 including career and technical centers, that shall be in effect in the
6 2025–2026 academic year and after.

7 (b) On or before January 15, 2025, the Secretary shall present to the House
8 and Senate Committees on Education a list of the statutory amendments
9 necessary to effect the intent of this section.

10 * * * Effective Date * * *

11 Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.