

1 S.304

2 Introduced by Committee on Education

3 Date:

4 Subject: Education; career and technical education; workforce development

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

7 (1) basing the tuition charged to a school district on the district's prior
8 year full-time equivalent student enrollment in a CTE center;

9 (2) requiring school districts to provide students in grades six through
10 eight with career enrichment and exposure, including at least one annual visit
11 to the school district's regional career and technical education center;

12 (3) requiring school districts to provide students enrolled in grades nine
13 and 10 a genuine opportunity to participate fully in pre-tech and exploratory
14 career and technical courses;

15 (4) requiring the Agency of Education to create and supervisory unions
16 to adopt a model comprehensive career development policy;

17 (5) changing oversight of CTE from the State Board of Education to the
18 Secretary of Education;

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

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

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

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

11 Sec. 5. DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE CAREER

12 DEVELOPMENT POLICY; REPORT

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

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

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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:

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

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§ 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 career technical center. However, the ~~Board~~ Secretary may designate a service

1 region for two or more comprehensive high schools if that region is not served
2 by a career technical center.

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

17 § 1532. MINIMUM STANDARDS; MEASUREMENT OF STANDARDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (c) [Repealed.]

19 § 1534. COURSE OF STUDY EVALUATION

20 (a) At least once in each period of five years, ~~and in coordination with the~~
21 ~~Vermont Advisory Council on Career Technical Education,~~ the Secretary shall

1 evaluate the effectiveness of each course of study offered by any career
2 technical center in the State. The ~~State Board~~ Secretary by rule shall prescribe
3 the method for conducting these evaluations.

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5 Sec. 8. TRANSFER OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; TRANSFER OF
6 RULES

7 (a) The statutory authority to adopt rules by the State Board of Education
8 pertaining to the oversight of career and technical education adopted under
9 16 V.S.A. chapter 37 and 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 is transferred from the State
10 Board of Education to the Agency of Education.

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

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

1 * * * Postsecondary Program Articulation Agreements * * *

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

3 § 1594. POSTSECONDARY PROGRAM ALIGNMENT

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

8 (1) manufacturing;

9 (2) engineering;

10 (3) health sciences; and

11 (4) education.

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

16 * * * Effective Date * * *

17 Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE

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