

1 S.170

2 Introduced by Senator Champion

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; courses of study; study abroad

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the  
7 statewide Study Abroad Program that would enable students in grades nine  
8 through 12 to pursue an educational program in a foreign country for one  
9 semester as part of a student's flexible pathway. The bill proposes to require  
10 the Secretary of Education to adopt rules to establish program details.

11 An act relating to the creation of the statewide Study Abroad Program

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

13 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 948 is added to read:

14 § 948. STUDY ABROAD

15 (a) Program creation. There is created the statewide Study Abroad  
16 Program to be a potential component of a student's flexible pathway. The  
17 Program shall enable students in grades nine through 12 to pursue an  
18 educational program in a foreign country for one semester.

19 (b) Tuition. The school district shall pay an amount not to exceed the  
20 average announced tuition of Vermont union high schools for a student's

1 participation in the Study Abroad Program, pursuant to rules adopted by the  
2 Agency of Education under subsection (c) of this section.

3 (c) Program management. The Secretary shall adopt rules pursuant to  
4 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 defining the following program requirements and details:

5 (1) student eligibility;

6 (2) Study Abroad Program eligibility;

7 (3) school district responsibility;

8 (4) program cost maximums; and

9 (5) program evaluation mechanism to ensure overall quality and  
10 accountability.

11 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 941 is amended to read:

12 § 941. FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS INITIATIVE

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14 (b) The Secretary shall develop, publish, and regularly update guidance, in  
15 the form of technical assistance, sharing of best practices and model  
16 documents, legal interpretations, and other support designed to assist school  
17 districts:

18 (1) to identify and support secondary students who require additional  
19 assistance to succeed in school and to identify ways in which individual  
20 students would benefit from flexible pathways to graduation;

1           (2) to work with every student in grade 7 seven through grade 12 in an  
2 ongoing personalized learning planning process that:

3           (A) identifies the student's emerging abilities, aptitude, and  
4 disposition;

5           (B) includes participation by families and other engaged adults;

6           (C) guides decisions regarding course offerings and other high-  
7 quality educational experiences; and

8           (D) is documented by a personalized learning plan;

9           (3) to create opportunities for secondary students to pursue flexible  
10 pathways to graduation that:

11           (A) increase aspiration and encourage postsecondary continuation of  
12 training and education;

13           (B) are an integral component of a student's personalized learning  
14 plan; and

15           (C) include:

16           (i) applied or work-based learning opportunities, including career  
17 and career technical education and internships;

18           (ii) virtual learning and blended learning;

19           (iii) dual enrollment opportunities as set forth in section 944 of  
20 this title;

