This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 177 (S.313). An act relating to transforming Vermont's career technical education system

Subjects: Education; career technical education

This act makes several updates to the laws that govern Vermont's career technical education (CTE) system. First, this act states the General Assembly's intent to transform Vermont's CTE system by providing universal access to CTE; enabling flexible delivery models to offer multiple pathways for students to access CTE; aligning the CTE system with workforce needs; creating a sustainable and student-centered funding system that removes disincentives for participation; exploring the viability and impact of CTE centers becoming diploma-conferring institutions or comprehensive high schools; maintaining a strong adult CTE system; and coordinating CTE governance with the ongoing education transformation process. It requires the Agency of Education, in collaboration with the Vermont Association of Career and Technical Directors and the Vermont Superintendents Association, to issue guidance, on or before September 18, 2026, on several topics to provide clarity to the field prior to updates to the CTE rules. This act requires the State Board of Education to review CTE rules and procedures not less than every five years and to update the rules and procedures as necessary. It requires the Agency of Education to submit a written report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Education and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Education with recommendations for CTE educator endorsement requirements that will balance the need for increased access to CTE educators with industry expertise with the need to ensure CTE educators are qualified to provide education in their specialty fields without unintentionally creating additional barriers or complexity; a pre-enforcement intervention pathway for disputes or disagreements in the field regarding interpretation and implementation of CTE laws; updates to the Flexible Pathways Initiative that alleviate statewide inconsistencies; and ensuring Adult Diploma Program participants have access to the education programs that best serve their needs, along with the recommendations for how to fund such access. This act states the General Assembly's intent to move toward a model of comprehensive high schools that would offer all opportunities available to students within the public education system within one school building or one school campus, with a single budget for both CTE education and general education. This act requires a school board to apply credits or proficiencies earned for CTE programs toward graduation requirements.

This act also makes several updates to Vermont's labor law. It adds a citation to the Code of Federal Regulations regarding the employer's burden to demonstrate that an employee did not work the required number of hours to be eligible to take parental and family leave under Vermont law. This act lists the sources of supporting documentation that survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking may rely upon to meet the definition of crime victim, a protected category under the Fair Employment Practices

Act. This act repeals a provision in the Fair Employment Practices Act allowing institutions of higher education to require tenured faculty to retire at 70 years of age. This act removes elected and municipal officers from the definition of employee for purposes of Vermont's minimum wage and overtime laws. Finally, this act renders certain provisions in contracts or agreements with health care providers void and unenforceable.

Effective Date: June 18, 2026