

1 H.612

2 Introduced by Representative McDonald of Berlin

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; technical education; postsecondary education

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to create a committee to study the
7 structure and funding of career and technical education and propose ways in
8 which they can be changed to increase the number of students who complete
9 high school and who graduate with the skills, knowledge, habits, and attitudes
10 needed to thrive as postsecondary students, employees, and citizens. The
11 committee would also study ways to provide access to technical education for
12 students enrolled in adult education programs.

13 An act relating to improving postsecondary readiness through career and
14 technical education

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

16 Sec. 1. CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION; STUDY

17 (a) Creation of committee. There is created a committee to study the
18 structure and funding of career and technical education in Vermont and to
19 propose changes to the system that are designed to increase the number of
20 students who complete high school and who graduate with the skills.

1 knowledge, habits, and attitudes needed to thrive as postsecondary students,
2 employees, and citizens.

3 (b) Membership. The members of the career and technical education study
4 committee shall be:

5 (1) the commissioner of education, or the commissioner's designee;

6 (2) a technical education director from a comprehensive high school
7 serving as a career and technical center and a technical education director from
8 a regional career and technical center, appointed by the Vermont association of
9 career and technical center directors;

10 (3) a representative from the Vermont State Colleges, appointed by its
11 chancellor;

12 (4) a representative from the Vermont Technical College, appointed by
13 its president;

14 (5) a representative from Learning Works, appointed by the assistant
15 director of the division of adult education and literacy at the department of
16 education;

17 (6) two superintendents, appointed by the executive director of the
18 Vermont superintendents association; and

19 (7) a representative of the business community who is a member of the
20 workforce development council, appointed by its executive director.

1 (c) Powers and duties.

2 (1) The committee shall study the ways in which career and technical
3 education offered in high schools can:

4 (A) support students in the acquisition of rigorous core knowledge,
5 skills, habits, and attitudes needed in postsecondary education and high-skilled
6 workplaces;

7 (B) engage students in specific career-related learning experiences
8 that equip them to make well-informed decisions about education, training, and
9 employment opportunities; and

10 (C) prepare students who may choose to enter the workforce directly
11 after high school with levels of skill and knowledge in a particular career area
12 that will be valued in the workplace.

13 (2) Questions the committee shall consider will include:

14 (A) How should Vermont's career and technical education system be
15 structured?

16 (B) How should career and technical education be paid for to
17 encourage maximum participation without creating financial disincentives?

18 (C) Should career and technical centers be paid for regionally or on a
19 statewide basis?

20 (D) Should career and technical centers be established as charter
21 schools?

1 (E) Should a separate entity be created to oversee technical education
2 on a regional or statewide level?

3 (F) How can all educational resources be used effectively and
4 efficiently so that high school, college, technical education, and adult
5 education form an integrated system?

6 (G) How should class schedules and calendars for high schools and
7 career and technical centers be coordinated to ensure uniformity and maximum
8 use of resources for all students?

9 (H) Should the age when high school students can participate in
10 career and technical education be lowered?

11 (I) How should transportation be provided and funded?

12 (J) How can the state board of education and the workforce
13 development council be encouraged to work collaboratively to ensure that
14 students receive comprehensive counseling regarding secondary and
15 postsecondary alternatives?

16 (K) What can be done to ensure that adult students have access to
17 opportunities available at the career and technical centers?

18 (L) What can be done to ensure that the business community is
19 involved in the identification and development of required core educational
20 components, such as culinary, automotive, building, information technology,
21 business, and health and human services training?

1 (M) What can be done to ensure that nonprofit entities engaged in
2 adult training become more closely aligned with career and technical centers?

3 (3) For purposes of its study of these issues, the committee shall consult
4 with technical center directors, superintendents, adult education providers, and
5 any other individual or entity whose interests or expertise may impact the work
6 required by this section, including Vermont Works for Women, Inc. and the
7 Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Inc.

8 (d) Report. On or before September 30, 2010, the commissioner of
9 education shall report to the senate and house committees on education
10 regarding the work required by this section. The commissioner shall provide a
11 comprehensive outline of the committee's recommendations, including a
12 detailed time line and possible staggered implementation dates. The outline
13 shall also identify proposed amendments to state statutes and shall address
14 personnel and funding requirements.

15 (e) On or before January 1, 2011, legislative council staff shall prepare a
16 draft bill incorporating all state statutory amendments necessary to implement
17 the committee's recommendations.

18 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on passage.