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H.359

Introduced by Representatives Ram of Burlington, Buxton of Royalton,
Christie of Hartford, Crawford of Burke, Donovan of
Burlington, Evans of Essex, French of Randolph, Hooper of
Montpelier, Larson of Burlington, Lenex of Shelburne, Lorber
of Burlington, Masland of Thetford, McCullough of Williston,
Pearson of Burlington, Peltz of Woodbury, Savage of Swanton,
Shand of Weathersfield, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of
Brattleboro, Sweaney of Windsor, Trieber of Rockingham,
Weston of Burlington, Wilson of Manchester, Wizowaty of
Burlington, Yantachka of Charlotte and Young of Albany

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade; economic development; work study

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to create a state-based work study
program utilizing the existing federal work study framework to ensure
continued availability of work study opportunities for postsecondary education
students and sponsoring organizations.

1 An act relating to promoting work study opportunities

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

3 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2888 is added to read:

4 § 2888. POSTSECONDARY WORK STUDY FUND

5 (a)(1) A postsecondary work study fund is established in the office of the
6 state treasurer to support work study opportunities at Vermont postsecondary
7 institutions.

8 (2) The fund shall comprise appropriations made by the general
9 assembly and grants, donations, or contributions from any other sources. The
10 fund shall be administered pursuant to subchapter 5 of chapter 7 of Title 32,
11 except that interest earned on the fund and any remaining balance shall be
12 retained in the fund.

13 (3) Annual expenditures from the special fund, up to the full amount of
14 the fund, shall be made by the commissioner of finance and management at
15 such times and in such amounts as designated by the secretary of commerce
16 and community development consistent with this section.

17 (b) The secretary of commerce and community development shall solicit
18 funding requests from Vermont postsecondary institutions, shall develop the
19 capability to publish fund information and receive funding requests through the
20 agency's website, and shall notify the commissioner of finance and

1 management of the programs and funding amounts to be awarded to each
2 institution or program not later than December 1 of each year.

3 (c) The secretary shall award funds to postsecondary institutions that:

4 (1) capitalize on existing work study experience and infrastructure;

5 (2) support and expand existing work study opportunities with
6 community and nonprofit organizations;

7 (3) provide students with opportunities to gain knowledge and
8 experience in technology, green business and industry, and other innovative
9 economic sectors;

10 (4) provide students with work opportunities that may be likely to lead
11 to employment following completion of their education program; and

12 (5) in the discretion of the secretary, best serve the needs of Vermont's
13 postsecondary institutions and their communities.

14 (d) Funding provided to a postsecondary institution work study program
15 shall be used only for a student who:

16 (1) is a Vermont resident;

17 (2) is enrolled in six or more credits at a Vermont-approved higher
18 education institution in a program of study at least two years in length;

19 (3) maintains satisfactory academic progress, as determined by the
20 standards adopted by the postsecondary institution; and

1 (4) is a recipient of subsidized federal aid who does not also receive
2 federal work study funding.

3 Sec. 2. TRANSFER OF FUNDING

4 The treasurer shall transfer from the next generation initiative fund to the
5 Vermont higher education endowment trust fund the amount of \$800,000.00 to
6 fund work study opportunities consistent with this act.

7 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on passage.