

1 668

2 Introduced by Representatives Gilbert of Fairfax, Andrews of Rutland City,  
3 Atkins of Winooski, Bohi of Hartford, Branagan of Georgia,  
4 Christie of Hartford, Consejo of Sheldon, Courcelle of Rutland  
5 City, Degree of St. Albans City, Dickinson of St. Albans Town,  
6 Howrigan of Fairfield, Keenan of St. Albans City, Koch of  
7 Barre Town, Komline of Dorset, Kupersmith of South  
8 Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Larocque of Barnet, Lenes  
9 of Shelburne, Macaig of Williston, Martin of Springfield,  
10 McAllister of Highgate, Mook of Bennington, Mrowicki of  
11 Putney, Pearce of Richford, Pearson of Burlington, Perley of  
12 Enosburgh, Ralston of Middlebury, Ram of Burlington, Savage  
13 of Swanton, Scheuermann of Stowe, Shaw of Pittsford,  
14 Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Shoreham, Stuart of  
15 Brattleboro, Townsend of Randolph, Waite-Simpson of Essex,  
16 Webb of Shelburne and Young of Glover

17 Referred to Committee on

18 Date:

19 Subject: Education; courses of study; accelerated learning opportunities;  
20 postsecondary institutions

1 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require secondary institutions to  
2 grant secondary academic credit for postsecondary coursework. This bill also  
3 would require that Vermont postsecondary institutions receiving appropriations  
4 from the state adopt policies granting postsecondary academic credit to all  
5 enrolled students who have successfully completed advanced level  
6 coursework. Postsecondary institutions, however, would have flexibility in  
7 awarding credit if the course is required in the student's declared major field of  
8 concentration.

9 An act relating to secondary and postsecondary credit for advanced level  
10 coursework

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

12 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 913 is amended to read:

13 § 913. SECONDARY CREDIT; POSTSECONDARY COURSES

14 (a) Each public school and approved independent school offering  
15 secondary education shall award credit toward graduation requirements to a  
16 student who ~~receives~~ has provided prior ~~approval from~~ notification to the  
17 school and successfully completes a course offered by an accredited  
18 postsecondary institution. ~~The secondary school shall determine the number~~  
19 ~~and nature of credits it will award to the student for successful completion of~~  
20 ~~the course, including whether the course will satisfy one or more requirements~~

1 ~~of the school, and shall inform the student prior to enrollment.~~ Credits  
2 awarded shall be based on performance and not solely on Carnegie units;  
3 provided, however, ~~that unless the school determines otherwise,~~ a three-credit  
4 postsecondary course shall be presumed to equal one-half of a Carnegie unit.  
5 ~~A school shall not withhold approval or credit without reasonable justification.~~  
6 ~~A student may request that the superintendent review the school's~~  
7 ~~determination regarding course approval or credits. The superintendent's~~  
8 ~~decision shall be final.~~

9 (b) For purposes of this section and section 914 of this title:

10 (1) "Accredited postsecondary institution" means a postsecondary  
11 institution that has been accredited by the New England Association of Schools  
12 and Colleges or a similar national or regional accrediting agency recognized by  
13 the U.S. Department of Education.

14 (2) "Carnegie unit" means a time-based unit of measuring secondary  
15 student attainment under which one unit equals 50 minutes of class time if the  
16 class is taken five days per week for 30 weeks.

1 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 914 is added to read:

2 § 914. DUAL ENROLLMENT AND OTHER POSTSECONDARY

3 COURSES; ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES;

4 POSTSECONDARY CREDIT

5 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, each Vermont  
6 postsecondary institution that receives general fund or capital appropriations  
7 from the state shall adopt and implement one or more policies by which the  
8 institution shall grant postsecondary academic credit to an enrolled student for  
9 the successful completion of:

10 (1) A postsecondary-level course in a dual enrollment program with an  
11 accredited postsecondary institution.

12 (2) A postsecondary-level course offered online or by correspondence  
13 with an accredited postsecondary institution.

14 (3) An advanced placement course at a Vermont secondary school and a  
15 score of 3, 4, or 5 on the advanced placement examination.

16 (b) If a course for which academic credit shall be awarded under  
17 subsection (a) of this section is a required course within the student's declared  
18 major field of concentration at the postsecondary institution, the institution  
19 may choose instead to adopt a policy:

20 (1) to award no academic credit for the completed course and require the  
21 student to enroll in the required course;

1           (2) to award no academic credit for the completed course, exempt the  
2           student from enrolling in the required course, and permit the student to enroll  
3           in a more advanced course in the same subject area; or

4           (3) to award academic credit for the completed course but require the  
5           student to enroll in the required course.

6           (c) If a student who has received credit pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
7           section for a course that is not a required course within the student's declared  
8           major field of concentration (the "credited course") subsequently declares his  
9           or her major field of concentration to be one in which the credited course is  
10          required, then:

11           (1) if the student has successfully completed one or more courses of an  
12           equal or more advanced level of that discipline and required by the new major  
13           field of concentration, then the earlier decision to award credit for the credited  
14           course cannot be reversed; and

15           (2) if the student has not successfully completed one or more courses as  
16           set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, then the institution shall follow  
17           the policy it adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

18           (d) A postsecondary institution may, at its discretion, award academic  
19           credit for relevant life experience.

1       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2             This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012. Policies required under this act

3             shall take effect beginning in the 2013–2014 academic year.