

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 40
3 entitled “An act relating to establishing an interim committee that will develop
4 policies to restore the 1980 ratio of state funding to student tuition at Vermont
5 State Colleges and to make higher education more affordable” respectfully
6 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the House propose
7 to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
8 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

9 Sec. 1. INTERIM STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING; REPORT

10 (a) The higher education subcommittee of the Prekindergarten-16 Council
11 established in 16 V.S.A. § 2905 shall study and develop proposed policies to
12 make the State Colleges and the University more affordable for Vermont
13 residents by lowering costs and restoring the 1980 ratio of State funding to
14 tuition costs.

15 (b) In addition to the members of the higher education subcommittee
16 identified in 16 V.S.A. § 2905(d), the following individuals shall be members
17 of the subcommittee solely for purposes of this interim study:

18 (1) one faculty member and one staff member of the University of
19 Vermont to be appointed by United Professions American Federation of
20 Teachers Vermont and the University of Vermont Staff Council, respectively;

1 (2) one faculty member and one staff member of the Vermont State
2 Colleges to be appointed by United Professions American Federation of
3 Teachers Vermont; and

4 (3) two students, one from the University of Vermont and one from the
5 Vermont State Colleges, appointed by their respective student government
6 associations.

7 (c) Powers and duties.

8 (1) The subcommittee shall develop proposed policies to:

9 (A) lower student and family costs and debt so that the State Colleges
10 and the University are more affordable for Vermonters; and

11 (B) return to the 1980 level of state funding to student tuition support
12 ratio.

13 (2) In developing the proposed policies, the subcommittee shall
14 consider:

15 (A) higher education funding for state colleges and universities in
16 other states, with a particular focus on tuition ratios and funding methods;

17 (B) the best policies for increasing the enrollment of Vermont
18 students and keeping students in Vermont after they graduate from college;

19 (C) administrative as compared to instructional spending, and how
20 institutional spending impacts student costs;

21 (D) the portability of Vermont Student Assistance Corporation funds;

1 (E) how to minimize the financial impact of living expenses on
2 student costs; and

3 (F) any information available from the State Colleges and the
4 University regarding the impact of Vermont State College and University of
5 Vermont graduates on Vermont's economy and on job creation and retention.

6 (d) On or before January 15, 2015, the subcommittee shall report to the
7 General Assembly on its findings and any recommendations for legislative
8 action.

9 (e) The subcommittee may meet no more than six times between July 1,
10 2014 and January 15, 2015 for the purposes of this interim study. For
11 attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly,
12 legislative members of the subcommittee shall be entitled to compensation and
13 reimbursement for expenses under 2 V.S.A. § 406, and other members of the
14 subcommittee who are not employees of the State of Vermont may be
15 reimbursed at the per diem rate under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 if not otherwise
16 compensated or benefited.

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on passage.

1

2 (Committee vote: _____)

3

4

Representative _____

5

FOR THE COMMITTEE