

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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

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

11 (a) The higher education subcommittee of the Prekindergarten-16 Council
12 established in 16 V.S.A. § 2905 shall study and develop proposed policies to
13 make the Vermont State Colleges (VSC) and the University of Vermont
14 (UVM) more affordable for Vermont residents by lowering costs and restoring
15 the 1980 ratio of State funding to tuition costs and by restoring funding to the
16 Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) incentive grant program to
17 reduce the **difference** between the VSAC incentive grant and the VSC and
18 UVM tuition rates to the **amount of that difference** in 1980.

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

1 (1) one UVM faculty member ~~and one staff member of the University of~~
2 ~~Vermont~~ to be appointed by United Professions American Federation of
3 Teachers Vermont ~~and the University of Vermont Staff Council, respectively;~~

4 (2) one VSC faculty member ~~and one staff member of the Vermont~~
5 ~~State Colleges~~ to be appointed by United Professions American Federation of
6 Teachers Vermont; and

7 (3) two students, one from UVM and one from VSC, ~~at least one of~~
8 ~~whom is a current or past recipient of a VSAC incentive grant,~~ appointed by
9 ~~their respective student government associations; and~~

10 (4) one VSAC outreach program counselor to be appointed by the
11 VSAC President.

12 (c) Powers and duties.

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

14 (A) lower student and family costs and debt so that UVM and VSC
15 are more affordable for Vermonters; ~~and~~

16 (B) return to the 1980 level of State funding ~~to~~ for the student tuition
17 support ratio for UVM and VSC; ~~and~~

18 (C) restore funding to the VSAC incentive grant program to reduce
19 the difference between the VSAC incentive grant and the VSC and UVM
20 tuition rates to the amount of that difference in 1980.

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

3 (A) higher education funding for state colleges and universities in
4 other states, with a particular focus on tuition ratios and funding methods
5 supporting students and public institutions;

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

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

10 (D) the portability of Vermont Student Assistance Corporation uses
11 of VSAC incentive grant funds, including the use for attendance at in-state and
12 out-of-state institutions;

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

15 (F) any information available from the State Colleges and the
16 University regarding the impact of VSC and UVM graduates and VSAC
17 incentive grant recipients on Vermont's economy and on job creation and
18 retention.

19 (d) The chair of the Prekindergarten-16 Council shall convene the first
20 meeting of the interim subcommittee to occur on or before July 1, 2014, at
21 which meeting the members shall elect a chair or co-chairs. On or before

1 January 15, 2015, the subcommittee shall report to the General Assembly on
2 its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.

3 (e) The subcommittee may meet no more than six times between July 1,
4 2014 and January 15, 2015 for the purposes of this interim study. For
5 attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly,
6 legislative members of the subcommittee shall be entitled to compensation and
7 reimbursement for expenses under 2 V.S.A. § 406, and other members of the
8 subcommittee who are not employees of the State of Vermont may be
9 reimbursed at the per diem rate under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 if not otherwise
10 compensated or benefited.

11 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on passage.

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18 (Committee vote: _____)

19 _____

20 Representative _____

21 FOR THE COMMITTEE