

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 Notes: (1) These suggestions, if endorsed by the Committee on Education,
3 could be placed in the format of a floor amendment at second reading. (2) The
4 suggestions reflect that the VSAC incentive grant program is an integral part of
5 the State’s funding for postsecondary education for Vermont residents, and that
6 State funding for this program also has eroded since 1980.

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

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

15 (a) The higher education subcommittee of the Prekindergarten-16 Council
16 established in 16 V.S.A. § 2905 shall study and develop proposed policies to
17 make the Vermont State Colleges (VSC) and the University of Vermont
18 (UVM) more affordable for Vermont residents by lowering costs and restoring
19 the 1980 ratio of State funding to tuition costs and by restoring funding to the
20 Vermont Student Assistance Corporation’s (VSAC) incentive grant program to

1 reduce the gap between the VSAC incentive grant and the VSC and UVM
2 tuitions to the level of that gap in 1980.

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

6 (1) one UVM faculty member and one UVM staff member of the
7 University of Vermont to be appointed by United Professions American
8 Federation of Teachers Vermont and the University of Vermont Staff Council,
9 respectively;

10 (2) one VSC faculty member to be appointed and one VSC staff
11 member of the Vermont State Colleges to be appointed by United Professions
12 American Federation of Teachers Vermont; and

13 (3) two students, one from UVM the University of Vermont and one
14 from VSC the Vermont State Colleges, at least one of whom shall be a current
15 or past recipient of a VSAC incentive grant, appointed by their respective
16 student government associations; and

17 (4) a VSAC outreach program counselor selected by the VSAC
18 President.

19 (c) Powers and duties.

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

1 (A) lower student and family costs and debt so that UVM and
2 VSCthe State Colleges and the University are more affordable for Vermonters;
3 and

4 (B) return to the 1980 level of State funding forte support funding of
5 the State’s public postsecondary institutions and the student tuition support
6 ratio for VSC and UVMthe State Colleges and the Univer; and

7 (C) restore funding to the VSAC incentive grant program to reduce
8 the gap between the VSAC incentive grant and the VSC and UVM tuitions to
9 the level of that gap in 1980its 1980 purchasing power. financial aidtuition
10 support ratio.

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

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

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

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

1 ~~(D) the uses of portability of VSAC incentive grant~~
2 ~~ermont Student Assistance Corporation~~ funds, including for attendance at in-state and out-of-
3 ~~state schools;~~

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

6 (F) any information available~~from the State Colleges and the~~
7 University regarding the impact of ~~VSC Vermont State College~~ and
8 ~~UVM~~University of Vermont graduates and VSAC incentive grant recipients on
9 Vermont's economy and on job creation and retention.

10 (d) The chair of the higher education subcommittee shall convene the
11 first meeting of the interim study subcommittee, whereupon the subcommittee
12 shall elect a chair or co-chairs.

13 (ed) On or before January 15, 2015, the subcommittee shall report to the
14 General Assembly on its findings and any recommendations for legislative
15 action.

16 (fe) The subcommittee may meet no more than six times between July 1,
17 2014 and January 15, 2015 for the purposes of this interim study. For
18 attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly,
19 legislative members of the subcommittee shall be entitled to compensation and
20 reimbursement for expenses under 2 V.S.A. § 406, and other members of the
21 subcommittee who are not employees of the State of Vermont may be

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1 reimbursed at the per diem rate under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 if not otherwise
2 compensated or benefited.

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.

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(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE