

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 180
3 entitled “An act relating to increasing General Fund appropriations to the
4 Vermont State Colleges” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the act be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * Annual Appropriation to Vermont State Colleges, University of Vermont
8 and Vermont Student Assistance Corporation * * *

9 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2889 is added to read:

10 § 2889. APPROPRIATION TO VERMONT STATE COLLEGES,
11 UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT, AND VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE
12 CORPORATION

13 For each fiscal year, the amount appropriated from the General Fund to
14 each of the Vermont State Colleges, the University of Vermont, and the
15 Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, or any of their successors, shall be
16 increased by no less than that fiscal year’s percentage increase in the General
17 Fund transfer to the Education Fund under subdivision 4025(a)(2) of this title;
18 provided, however, that in calculating the fiscal year’s percentage increase in
19 the General Fund transfer to the Education Fund, any surplus amount or
20 one- time payment or adjustment that forms part of the General Fund transfer
21 shall be disregarded.

1 * * * Appropriation to Vermont State Colleges
2 for Education and Training Services Program * * *

3 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION TO THE VERMONT STATE COLLEGES
4 TO EXPAND EDUCATION AND TRAINING EVALUATION
5 SERVICES PROGRAM

6 The sum of \$40,000.00 is appropriated from the Next Generation Initiative
7 Fund created pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 2887 to the Vermont State Colleges for
8 the purpose of providing funding for the Colleges' Education and Training
9 Evaluation Services Program. The Vermont State Colleges shall use the
10 appropriation to evaluate or reevaluate educational and training programs for
11 college credit at no cost or at a reduced cost to the programs being evaluated.
12 The Vermont State Colleges shall identify training programs in the skilled
13 trades, including the plumbing and electrical trades, to receive these evaluation
14 services. The Vermont State Colleges shall, on or before January 15, 2017,
15 issue a report to the House and Senate Committees on Education describing
16 how the funds appropriated pursuant to this section have been spent, how any
17 remaining funds appropriated pursuant to this section will be spent, and the
18 number and nature of the programs evaluated or reevaluated and the results of
19 the evaluations.

1 Colleges. The Secretary shall administer the funds in accordance with
2 subsection (d) of this section. Any unused funds shall revert to the General
3 Fund.

4 (b) Program. The Man Up Program provides outreach, supportive
5 advising, and up to three free courses toward a college degree to young
6 Vermont men who have graduated from high school but have not continued on
7 to college. The Program includes college courses offered by the Vermont State
8 Colleges and the University of Vermont. The Program is currently offered in
9 Morrisville, Vermont. The purpose of the appropriation in this section is to
10 provide funding to continue this program for an additional year.

11 (c) Students.

12 (1) A Vermont resident who has completed grade 12 and has received a
13 high school diploma is eligible to participate in the Program if:

14 (A) the student:

15 (i) is a male between 18 and 25 years of age;

16 (ii) has completed the Governor's Career Readiness Program at
17 the Community College of Vermont; and

18 (iii) has not previously completed a postsecondary course outside
19 the Man Up Program; and

20 (B) the postsecondary institution has determined that the student is
21 sufficiently prepared to succeed in a postsecondary course, which can be

1 determined in part by the assessment tool or tools identified by the
2 participating postsecondary institution.

3 (2) An eligible student may enroll in up to three courses for which
4 neither the student nor the student's parent or guardian shall be required to pay
5 tuition. A student is not required to enroll in three courses in one semester but
6 shall enroll in a minimum of one course in each consecutive semester in order
7 to remain eligible.

8 (d) Payments. The Vermont State Colleges shall receive, on or before
9 July 31, 2016, a payment of \$60,000.00. This payment shall be used for one
10 full-time staff member, who shall provide outreach and advisory services to
11 eligible students. The Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont
12 shall receive \$800.00 for each course in which an eligible student remains
13 enrolled for more than 30 days. This payment shall be made within 45 days of
14 the date of enrollment.

15 (e) Reporting. The Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont
16 shall, on or before January 15, 2017, issue a report to the House and Senate
17 Committees on Education describing the amount received pursuant to this
18 section, the manner in which those funds were used, the number of students in
19 the Program, the number and type of courses taken by the students, the success
20 of the students in completing the courses, and the advantages and
21 disadvantages of the Program. The Vermont State Colleges and the University

1 of Vermont shall in their reports recommend whether the Program should be
2 terminated, modified, or enhanced.

3 * * * Complete College Program * * *

4 Sec. 5. COMPLETE COLLEGE PROGRAM

5 (a) Program creation. There is created the Complete College Program to
6 enable more Vermonters, who are from families with low incomes and whose
7 parents have not completed postsecondary education, to obtain a postsecondary
8 degree and allow the University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges to
9 improve their recruitment and support services for these students. The goal of
10 the program is to improve graduation rates of these students, narrow the
11 inequality gap, reduce social services costs over time, and expand the State's
12 workforce.

13 (b) Appropriation. The sum of \$3,000,000.00 is appropriated from the
14 General Fund for fiscal year 2017 to the Secretary of Administration. The
15 Secretary shall administer the funds in accordance with subsection (d) of this
16 section. Any unused funds shall revert to the General Fund.

17 (c) Eligible students.

18 (1) A Vermont resident who has received a high school diploma or
19 equivalency certificate is eligible to participate in the Program if:

20 (A) neither of the student's parents has obtained a bachelor's
21 degree; and

1 (B) the student is eligible for a federal Pell grant.

2 (d) Amount of payments. The University of Vermont and the Vermont
3 State Colleges shall receive, on or before June 30 of each year, a payment from
4 the amount appropriated from the current fiscal year based on the number of
5 eligible students, as defined in subsection (c) of this section, who graduated in
6 the academic year ending on or before June 30 of that year. The amount paid
7 shall be \$1,500.00 for each eligible student who was awarded an associate's
8 degree in that academic year, and \$2,000.00 for each eligible student who was
9 awarded a bachelor's degree in that academic year. In the event that the
10 payments owed to the University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges
11 exceed the amount of the appropriation from the current fiscal year, the
12 payment per eligible student amounts set forth in this subdivision shall be
13 reduced proportionally.

14 (e) Use of payments. The University of Vermont and the Vermont State
15 Colleges shall use one-half of the payments received pursuant to this section to
16 provide financial aid to eligible students, and shall use one-half of the
17 payments received pursuant to this section to build support systems designed
18 to allow first-generation students and students with low income to graduate
19 from college in a timely fashion.

20 (f) The University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges shall, on or
21 before October 1 of each year, issue a report to the House and Senate

1 Committees on Education describing the amount received pursuant to this
2 section from the prior fiscal year appropriation and the manner in which those
3 funds were used.

4 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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10 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE