

1 H.379

2 Introduced by Representative Smith of New Haven

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Education; postsecondary education; University of Vermont;

6 Vermont State Colleges; distance learning

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
8 University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges to permit a student
9 enrolled in one of those entities to participate in courses offered by any of the
10 others through distance learning technology. The postsecondary institution
11 would not be required to award academic credit, but the institution offering the
12 course would issue a certificate to the student upon satisfactory completion.
13 The student would not be charged tuition or any other fee for participation in
14 the courses.

15 An act relating to distance learning opportunities for students enrolled in the
16 University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges

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

1 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. part 4, chapter 71 is added to read:

2 CHAPTER 71. GENERAL PROVISIONS

3 § 2161. DISTANCE LEARNING; RECIPROCITY

4 The Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont shall establish a
5 process by which a student enrolled in any of the institutions is able to access
6 distance learning technology to participate in courses offered by any of the
7 other institutions. The institutions may limit participation under this section to
8 courses that do not require the physical presence of the student. The institution
9 in which the student is enrolled shall not be required to award credit or to
10 indicate participation on the student's transcript. The institution offering the
11 course shall issue a certificate to the student upon satisfactory completion. No
12 institution shall charge the student tuition or any other fee for participation in a
13 course under this section.

14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013 and shall apply to courses that
16 begin meeting on January 1, 2014 and after.