

S. 40

Introduced by Senators Pollina, Collins, Cummings, Doyle, Lyons, Westman,  
and Zuckerman

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; appropriations; state college funding

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish an  
interim committee that will develop policies to restore the 1980 ratio of state  
funding to student tuition at Vermont State Colleges and to make higher  
education more affordable.

~~An act relating to establishing an interim committee that will develop  
policies to restore the 1980 ratio of state funding to student tuition at  
Vermont State Colleges and to make higher education more affordable~~

*An act relating to establishing an interim committee that will develop  
proposed policies to restore the 1980 ratio of State funding to student  
tuition at Vermont State Colleges and to make higher education more  
affordable*

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

~~Sec. 1. FINDINGS~~

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) In 1980, 51 percent of the revenue supporting our Vermont State  
Colleges came from state appropriations and 49 percent came from student  
tuition. Now, after decades of underfunding, state appropriations provide less  
than 20 percent of the Vermont State Colleges' revenue and over 80 percent

1 ~~comes from student tuition. This is a huge cost shift onto students and~~  
2 families, many of whom simply cannot afford it.

3 (2) On a per-capita basis, Vermont now provides less state support to its  
4 public colleges than almost any other state.

5 (3) In FY 2011–2012, Vermont ranked 49th among the states, next to  
6 last, in state appropriations per \$1,000.00 of personal income.

7 (4) In the 21 years between 1990 and 2011, the state appropriation per  
8 full-time Vermont student at Vermont State Colleges fell from \$3,342.00 to  
9 \$3,231.00.

10 (5) Eighty-one percent of the students at Vermont State Colleges are  
11 from Vermont, and 54 percent of these students are the first in their families to  
12 attend college. Eighty-four percent of Vermont State College graduates stay in  
13 Vermont.

14 Sec. 2. INTERIM STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

15 (a) Creation of committee. There is created the Vermont Higher Education  
16 Affordability Committee to develop policies that shall make the State Colleges  
17 and the University of Vermont more affordable for Vermont residents by  
18 lowering costs and restoring the 1980 ratio of state funding to tuition costs.

19 (b) Membership. The Vermont Higher Education Affordability Committee  
20 shall be composed of nine members. Two members of the Committee shall be  
21 members of the General Assembly. The Committee on Committees of the

1 ~~Senate shall appoint one member of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House~~  
2 shall appoint one member of the House. Seven members of the Committee  
3 shall be as follows:  
4 (1) one faculty member of the University of Vermont to be appointed by  
5 United Professions American Federation of Teachers Vermont;  
6 (2) one faculty member and one staff member of the Vermont State  
7 Colleges to be appointed by United Professions American Federation of  
8 Teachers Vermont;  
9 (3) the President of the University of Vermont;  
10 (4) the Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges; and  
11 (5) two students, one from the University of Vermont and one from the  
12 Vermont State Colleges, appointed by their respective student government  
13 associations.  
14 (c) Powers and duties.  
15 (1) The Vermont Higher Education Affordability Committee shall  
16 develop policies to:  
17 (A) lower student and family costs so that Vermont colleges are more  
18 affordable for Vermonters;  
19 (B) increase resources for higher education instruction;  
20 (C) return to the 1980 level of state funding to student tuition support  
21 ratio;

- 1 ~~(D) reduce student debt;~~
- 2 (E) retain and recruit higher education faculty and staff; and
- 3 (F) implement methods of income sensitivity.
- 4 (2) In developing these policies, the Committee shall consider:
- 5 (A) higher education funding for state colleges and universities in
- 6 other states, with a particular focus on tuition ratios;
- 7 (B) the best policies for increasing the enrollment of Vermont
- 8 students and keeping students in Vermont after they graduate from college;
- 9 (C) how Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont
- 10 spend their state funding;
- 11 (D) how to increase spending on full-time faculty, classrooms,
- 12 technology, and facility improvements, as opposed to administration;
- 13 (E) how to take advantage of online education options, especially
- 14 options that may increase out-of-state enrollment;
- 15 (F) comparing the percentage of Vermont students to out-of-state
- 16 students enrolled at Vermont colleges and universities in 1980 and 2012, and
- 17 which institutions students attended;
- 18 (G) the portability of Vermont Student Assistance Corporation Inc.
- 19 funds; and
- 20 (H) the impact of Vermont State College graduates on Vermont's
- 21 economy and on job creation and retention.

1 ~~(3) For purposes of its study of these issues, the Vermont Higher~~  
2 Education Affordability Committee shall have the assistance of the Office of  
3 Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office.

4 (d) Report. By November 15, 2013, the Committee shall report to the  
5 General Assembly on its findings and any recommendations for legislative  
6 action.

7 (e) Number of meetings, term, and reimbursement. The Committee may  
8 meet no more than six times, and shall cease to exist on November 15, 2013.  
9 For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly,  
10 legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to compensation and  
11 reimbursement for expenses under 2 V.S.A. § 406, and other members of the  
12 Committee who are not employees of the State of Vermont shall be reimbursed  
13 at the per diem rate under 32 V.S.A. § 1010.

14 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 ~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.~~

~~Sec. 1. FINDINGS~~

~~The General Assembly finds that:~~

~~(1) In 1980, 51 percent of the revenue supporting our Vermont State Colleges came from state appropriations and 49 percent came from student tuition. Now, after decades of underfunding, state appropriations provide less than 20 percent of the Vermont State Colleges' revenue and over 80 percent comes from student tuition. This is a huge cost shift onto students and families, many of whom simply cannot afford it.~~

~~(2) On a per-capita basis, Vermont now provides less state support to its public colleges than almost any other state.~~

~~(3) In FY 2011-2012, Vermont ranked 49th among the states, next to last, in state appropriations per \$1,000.00 of personal income.~~

~~(4) In the 21 years between 1990 and 2011, the state appropriation per full-time Vermont student at Vermont State Colleges fell from \$3,342.00 to \$3,231.00.~~

~~(5) Eighty-one percent of the students at Vermont State Colleges are from Vermont, and 54 percent of these students are the first in their families to attend college. Eighty-four percent of Vermont State College graduates stay in Vermont.~~

**Sec. 2. INTERIM STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING**

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

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

~~(1) one faculty member of the University of Vermont to be appointed by United Professions American Federation of Teachers Vermont;~~

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

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

~~(c) Powers and duties.~~

~~(1) The higher education subcommittee shall develop policies to:~~

~~(A) lower student and family costs and debt so that Vermont colleges are more affordable for Vermonters; and~~

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

~~(2) In developing these policies, the subcommittee shall consider:~~

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

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

~~(C) administrative as compared to instructional costs;~~

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

~~and~~

~~(E) any information available from the state colleges and universities regarding the impact of Vermont State College and University of Vermont graduates on Vermont's economy and on job creation and retention.~~

~~(d) On or before November 15, 2013, the subcommittee shall report to the General Assembly on its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.~~

~~(e) The subcommittee may meet no more than six times between July 1, 2013 and November 15, 2013 for the purposes of this interim study. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, legislative members of the subcommittee shall be entitled to compensation and reimbursement for expenses under 2 V.S.A. § 406, and other members of the subcommittee who are not employees of the State of Vermont shall may be reimbursed at the per diem rate under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 if not otherwise compensated or benefited.~~

### Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.~~

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

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

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

~~(1) one UVM faculty member to be appointed by United Professions American Federation of Teachers Vermont;~~

~~(2) one VSC faculty member to be appointed by United Professions American Federation of Teachers Vermont;~~

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

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

(c) Powers and duties.

(1) The subcommittee shall develop proposed policies to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(C) total spending as compared to instructional spending, and how institutional spending affects student costs;

(D) the uses of VSAC incentive grant funds, including the portability of use for attendance at in-state and out-of-state institutions;

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

(F) any information available regarding the impact of VSC and UVM graduates and VSAC incentive grant recipients on Vermont's economy and on job creation and retention.

(d) The chair of the Prekindergarten-16 Council shall convene the first meeting of the interim subcommittee to occur on or before July 1, 2014, at which meeting the members shall elect a chair or co-chairs. On or before January 15, 2015, the subcommittee shall report to the General Assembly on its findings and any recommendations for legislative action.



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

*Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE*

*This act shall take effect on passage.*