

1 S.155

2 Introduced by Senators Bray, Ayer, Baruth, Benning, Campbell, Collins,

3 Cummings, Doyle, Flory, French, Lyons, MacDonald,

4 McAllister, Mullin, and Starr

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Workforce education and training; workforce development needs

8 assessment and strategic plan

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a
10 strategic workforce assessment and plan to enhance the performance of the
11 state's workforce development programs.

12 An act relating to creating a strategic workforce development needs
13 assessment and strategic plan

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

15 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A § 545 is added to read:

16 § 545. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND

17 STRATEGIC PLAN

18 (a) The Commissioner of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of
19 Commerce and Community Development and the Secretary of Education, and
20 in consultation with the Workforce Development Council and the Secretary of

1 Human Services, shall create a strategic plan for workforce development in
2 Vermont that shall:

3 (1) Identify the components of Vermont's labor market and workforce
4 trends based upon existing data, studies, and analysis.

5 (2) Identify current and future workforce skill requirements.

6 (3) Identify and determine the effectiveness of existing state workforce
7 development and training resources, including those programs established
8 under this chapter, chapter 22 of this title, and 16 V.S.A. chapters 37 and 39.

9 (b) The strategic plan shall identify gaps between the public, nonprofit, and
10 private workforce development programs and Vermont's workforce
11 development needs and propose measures to bridge these gaps.

12 (c) The Commissioner of Labor shall:

13 (1) Consider the Farm to Plate Initiative as a model for the design and
14 implementation of the needs assessment and strategic plan and consult with the
15 Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund in these efforts.

16 (2) Use the information gathered from the needs assessment and the
17 strategic plan on an ongoing basis to identify methods and funding necessary
18 to strengthen the link among the Vermont workforce and public, nonprofit, and
19 private workforce development programs.

1 (3) Coordinate with the State Auditor of Accounts to develop
2 measurable benchmarks to assess the performance of the State's workforce
3 development programs.

4 (4) On or before January 15 of each year, submit to the House
5 Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate
6 Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs a report
7 on the workforce development strategic plan and the performance of the
8 State's workforce development programs.

9 (d) The Commissioner of Labor may seek and accept funds from private
10 and public entities and utilize technical assistance, loans, grants, and other
11 means as available for the purposes of this section.

12 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATIONS; TRANSFERS

13 (a) Of the amounts appropriated in each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015 from
14 the General Fund to the following recipients, an amount equal to one percent
15 of the total general fund appropriation, not to exceed \$5,000.00, shall be
16 transferred from each program recipient identified below to the Commissioner
17 of Labor to fund the design and implementation of the workforce development
18 needs assessment and strategic plan pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 545:

19 (1) The Department of Labor from funding for each of the following:

20 (A) The Workforce Development Council.

1 (B) Grants for regional workforce development pursuant to 10 V.S.A.
2 § 542.

3 (C) The Summer Employment Opportunity Program.

4 (D) The Vermont Apprenticeship Program.

5 (2) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development from
6 funding for each of the following:

7 (A) Performance contracts for regional economic development
8 pursuant to 24 V.S.A. chapter 76.

9 (B) Performance-based grants for an employment training program
10 pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 531.

11 (C) The Vermont Economic Progress Council.

12 (D) The Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center.

13 (E) The Vermont Technology Council.

14 (F) The Vermont Small Business Development Center.

15 (3) The Agency of Human Services from funding for each of the
16 following:

17 (A) Creative Workforce Solutions.

18 (B) The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.

19 (C) The Department for Children and Families.

20 (D) The Department of Mental Health.

21 (E) The Department of Vermont Health Access.

1 (F) The Department of Corrections.

2 (4) The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets from funding for each
3 of the following:

4 (A) The Farm Viability Enhancement Program.

5 (B) The Working Lands Enterprise Board.

6 (5) The Agency of Education from funding for each of the following:

7 (A) Each of the five Vermont State Colleges.

8 (B) The University of Vermont, from funding for each of the
9 following:

10 (i) The Area Health Education Centers.

11 (ii) The Small Business Development Program.

12 (iii) The Family Business Development Program.

13 (6) The Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.

14 (b) Of the amounts appropriated in each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015 from
15 the General Fund to the Next Generation Initiative Fund created in 16 V.S.A.
16 § 2887, the Commissioner of Labor shall have the authority to allocate an
17 amount equal to the difference between \$150,000.00 and the amount
18 transferred pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for the design and
19 implementation of the workforce development needs assessment and strategic
20 plan pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 545.

1 Sec. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF LIMITED SERVICE POSITION

2 With the funds transferred pursuant to Sec. 2 of this act, the Commissioner
3 of Labor is authorized to expend:

4 (1) up to \$100,000.00 for salary and benefits for one limited service
5 position to design and implement the workforce development needs assessment
6 and strategic plan pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 545; and

7 (2) up to \$50,000.00 for expenses incurred for travel, consulting,
8 reporting, meeting, and other activities arising from the design and
9 implementation of the workforce development needs assessment and strategic
10 plan pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 545.

11 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

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