

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10          (c) Powers and duties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20          (e) The subcommittee may meet no more than six times between July 1,  
21          2014 and January 15, 2015 for the purposes of this interim study. For

1 attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly,  
2 legislative members of the subcommittee shall be entitled to compensation and  
3 reimbursement for expenses under 2 V.S.A. § 406, and other members of the  
4 subcommittee who are not employees of the State of Vermont may be  
5 reimbursed at the per diem rate under 32 V.S.A. § 1010 if not otherwise  
6 compensated or benefited.

7 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on passage.

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14 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE