

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE

The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. S. 180, entitled "An act relating to increasing General Fund appropriations to the Vermont State Colleges"

respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

number and nature of the programs evaluated or reevaluated and the results of the evaluations.

\* \* \* Appropriation to Vermont Higher Education  
Endowment Trust Fund \* \* \*

Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 2885 is amended to read:

§ 2885. VERMONT HIGHER EDUCATION ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND

(a) A Vermont Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund is established in the ~~office~~ Office of the State Treasurer to comprise the following:

(1) appropriations made by the General Assembly;

(2) in any fiscal year in which a General Fund surplus exists and the General Fund Stabilization Reserve is funded to its required statutory level, funds raised by the estate tax levied under 32 V.S.A. chapter 190 that are more than ~~125~~ 110 percent of the amount projected by the Emergency Board in the July annual forecast made pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 305a; and

(3) contributions from any other sources.

\* \* \*

\* \* \* Man Up Program Continuation and Evaluation \* \* \*

Sec. 4. APPROPRIATION TO CONTINUE AND EVALUATE THE MAN UP PROGRAM

(a) Appropriation. The sum of \$103,200.00 is appropriated from the Next Generation Initiative Fund created pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 2887 to the Secretary of Administration for the purpose of continuing and evaluating the Man Up Program, which is a program sponsored by the Vermont State Colleges. The Secretary shall administer the funds in accordance with subsection (d) of this section. Any unused funds shall revert to the General Fund.

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

(c) Students.

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

(A) the student:

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

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

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

(B) the postsecondary institution has determined that the student is sufficiently prepared to succeed in a postsecondary course, which can be determined in part by the assessment tool or tools identified by the participating postsecondary institution.

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

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

(e) Reporting. The Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont shall, on or before January 15, 2017, issue a report to the House and Senate Committees on Education describing the amount received pursuant to this section, the manner in which those funds were used, the number of students in the Program, the number and type of courses taken by the students, the success of the students in completing the courses, and the advantages and disadvantages of the Program. The Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont shall in their reports recommend whether the Program should be terminated, modified, or enhanced.

\* \* \* Complete College Program \* \* \*

## Sec. 5. COMPLETE COLLEGE PROGRAM

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

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

(c) Eligible students.

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

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

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

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

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

(f) The University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges shall, on or before October 1 of each year, issue a report to the House and Senate Committees on Education describing the amount received pursuant to this section from the prior fiscal year appropriation and the manner in which those funds were used.

Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

(Committee vote: 5-0-1)



---

Senator Cummings  
FOR THE COMMITTEE