

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Education to which was referred Senate Bill No. 180
3 entitled “An act relating to increasing General Fund appropriations to the
4 Vermont State Colleges” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the act be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * Annual appropriation to Vermont State Colleges * * *

8 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2171(f) is added to read:

9 (f) For each fiscal year, the amount appropriated from the General Fund to
10 the Vermont State Colleges, or successor under subsection (a) of this section,
11 shall be increased by no less than that fiscal year’s percentage increase in the
12 General Fund transfer to the Education Fund under Sec. 4025(a)(2) of this title;
13 provided however, that in calculating the fiscal year’s percentage increase in
14 the General Fund transfer to the Education Fund, any surplus amount or one-
15 time payment or adjustment that forms part of the General Fund transfer shall
16 be disregarded.

17 * * * Appropriation to Vermont State Colleges

18 for Education and Training Services Program * * *

19 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION TO THE VERMONT STATE COLLEGES

20 TO EXPAND EDUCATION AND TRAINING EVALUATION

21 SERVICES PROGRAM

1 The sum of \$40,000 is appropriated from the Next Generation Initiative
2 Fund created pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 2887 to the Vermont State Colleges for
3 the purpose of providing funding for the Colleges' Education and Training
4 Evaluation Services Program. The Vermont State Colleges shall use the
5 appropriation to evaluate or re-evaluate educational and training programs for
6 college credit, at no cost or at a reduced cost to the programs being evaluated.
7 The Vermont State Colleges shall identify training programs in the skilled
8 trades to receive these evaluation services. The Vermont State Colleges shall,
9 on or before January 15, 2017, issue a report to the House and Senate
10 Committees on Education describing how the funds appropriated pursuant to
11 this section have been spent, how any remaining funds appropriated pursuant
12 to this section will be spent, and the number and nature of the programs
13 evaluated or re-evaluated and the results of the evaluations.

14 * * * Appropriation to Vermont Higher
15 Education Endowment Trust Fund * * *

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

17 § 2885. VERMONT HIGHER EDUCATION ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND

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

20 (1) appropriations made by the General Assembly;

1 public postsecondary institution. The Program may include online college
2 courses or components. The Program is currently offered in Morrisville,
3 Vermont. The purpose of the appropriation in this section is to provide
4 funding to continue the program in Morrisville and to add a second location
5 offering the Program, the location for which shall be determined by the
6 Vermont State Colleges.

7 (c) Students.

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

10 (A) the student:

11 (i) is a male between the ages of 18 - 25;

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

14 (iii) is within the geographic boundaries of the Program being
15 offered, as determined by the Vermont State Colleges; and

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

20 (2) An eligible student may enroll in up to three courses for which
21 neither the student nor the student's parent or guardian shall be required to pay

1 tuition. A student is not required to enroll in three courses in one semester but
2 shall enroll in a minimum of one course in each consecutive semester in order
3 to remain eligible for additional tuition-free courses.

4 (d) Payments. The Vermont State Colleges shall receive, on or before July
5 31, 2016, a payment of \$120,000. This payment shall be used for two full time
6 staff members, one for each Program location, who shall provide outreach and
7 advisory services to eligible students. The Vermont State Colleges shall
8 receive \$800 for each course in which an eligible student remains enrolled for
9 more than 30 days. This payment shall be made within 45 days of the date of
10 enrollment.

11 (e) Reporting. The Vermont State Colleges shall, on or before January 15,
12 2017, issue a report to the House and Senate Committees on Education
13 describing the amount received pursuant to this section, the manner in which
14 those funds were used, the number of students in the Program in each location,
15 the number and type of courses taken by the students, the success of the
16 students in completing the courses, and the advantages and disadvantages of
17 the Program. The Vermont State Colleges shall in this report recommend
18 whether the Program should be terminated, modified or enhanced.

19 Sec. 5. COMPLETE COLLEGE PROGRAM

20 (a) Program creation. There is created the Complete College Program to
21 enable more first generation and low income Vermonters to obtain a college

1 education and allow the University of Vermont and the Vermont State
2 Colleges to improve their recruitment and support services for these
3 students. The goal of the program is to improve graduation rates of first
4 generation and low income Vermonters, narrow the inequality gap, reduce
5 social services costs over time, and expand the State's workforce.

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

10 (c) Eligible students.

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

13 (A) neither of the student's parents have obtained a bachelor's degree;

14 and

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

16 (d) Amount of payments. The University of Vermont and the Vermont
17 State Colleges shall receive, on or before June 30 of each year, a payment from
18 the amount appropriated from the current fiscal year based on the number of
19 eligible students, as defined in subsection (c) of this section, who graduated in
20 the academic year ending on or before June 30 of that year. The amount paid
21 shall be \$1,500 for each eligible student who was awarded an associate's

1 degree in that academic year, and \$2,000 for each eligible student who was
2 awarded a bachelor's degree in that academic year. In the event that the
3 payments owed to the University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges
4 exceed the amount of the appropriation from the current fiscal year, the
5 payment per eligible student amounts set forth in this subdivision shall be
6 reduced proportionally.

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

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

18 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

20 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE