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H.449

Introduced by Representatives O’Sullivan of Burlington, Stuart of Brattleboro,
Botzow of Pownal, Briglin of Thetford, Burke of Brattleboro,
Christie of Hartford, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Donovan of
Burlington, Hill of Wolcott, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Ode of
Burlington, Sheldon of Middlebury, Walz of Barre City, Wood
of Waterbury, and Wright of Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Workforce development and education; career technical education;
career pathways

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct the
Agency of Education to design programs and conduct a pilot project to expand
career pathways for high-skill, high-demand occupations.

An act relating to expanding career pathways for high-skill, high-demand
occupations

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

2 Sec. 1. GOALS

3 (a) Affordability. Career technical education (CTE) provides access to
4 industry-recognized credentials, postsecondary credentials, and high-
5 wage jobs.

6 (b) Growing the Economy. CTE links students to employers in high-
7 growth, high-priority Vermont economic sectors, such as health sciences or
8 advanced manufacturing.

9 (c) Protecting the vulnerable. The applied, hands-on nature of CTE
10 coursework has proven effective in developing high levels of skill in
11 populations that do not always thrive in regular classrooms, and has proven
12 successful in moving first-generation students and students living in poverty
13 toward postsecondary credentials.

14 Sec. 2. DESIGN OF PROGRAMS FOR HIGH-SKILL, HIGH-DEMAND
15 OCCUPATIONS

16 (a) The Agency of Education shall design, in collaboration with regional
17 career technical education (CTE) centers, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 1522,
18 private sector employers, and postsecondary institutions, including the
19 University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges, for implementation by
20 regional CTE centers for the 2018–2019 academic year:

1 (1) a robust, high-quality career advising and guidance system that is
2 aligned with high-wage, high-growth sectors;

3 (2) rigorous programs of study that include both secondary and
4 postsecondary elements and are embedded within transparent career pathways
5 for high-skill, high-demand occupations in the CTE center's region or in the
6 State; and

7 (3) a plan to expand student participation in postsecondary programs
8 that lead to industry-recognized credentials or degrees that signal higher levels
9 of skills that are in demand in the CTE center's region or in the State.

10 (b) The Agency of Education shall conduct a pilot project to provide
11 funding for a specific course of CTE study that is conditioned on student
12 performance or performance criteria related to the course of study. The
13 Agency shall select a course of study for this project that is designed to prepare
14 a student for a high-skill, high-demand occupation upon graduation or to
15 continue on to a postsecondary course of study in that same field. The Agency
16 shall fund this project from existing federal funding sources.

17 (c) On or before January 15, 2018 and November 15, 2018, the Secretary of
18 Education shall provide progress reports on the status and results of its actions
19 under this act to the House and Senate Committees on Education.

20 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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