

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Referred to Committee on

3 Date:

4 Subject: Education; career technical education; special education; education
5 weightings

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to: (1) create the
7 CTE Innovation Grant Program to support CTE programming for students in
8 grade 7; (2) reduce the fiscal year 2018 appropriation for special education in
9 order to providing funding for the CTE Innovation Grant Program; and (3)
10 create the Education Weighting Study Committee to consider and make
11 recommendations on the criteria used for determining the weighted long-term
12 membership of a school district.

13 An act relating to career technical education, special education, and
14 education weightings

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

16 Sec. 1. CTE INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

17 (a) CTE Innovation Grant Program created. There is created the CTE
18 Innovation Grant Program to support CTE programming for students in
19 grade 7. The program shall be administered by the Agency of Education.

20 (b) Grants.

1 (1) The Agency of Education shall award grants on a competitive basis
2 to public schools that operate grade 7. Grants shall be used by public schools
3 to purchase equipment and supplies for grade 7 students to support CTE
4 programming, including programming designed to assist students in deciding
5 whether to enroll in career technical education courses.

6 (2) The Agency shall develop all aspects of the program, including
7 creating an application process, setting funding priorities, and determining
8 criteria for evaluating applications on a competitive basis and for awarding
9 grants, provided that, in order to qualify for a grant, a public school shall
10 provide its grade 7 students with practical learning opportunities in career
11 technical education, such as in-class training by trade members or class visits
12 to trade sites.

13 (c) Funding. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in 16 V.S.A.
14 § 4025, the sum of \$1,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Education Fund for
15 fiscal year 2018 to the Agency of Education, which the Agency shall
16 administer in accordance with this section, and any unused funds shall revert to
17 the Education Fund.

18 (d) Reporting. On or before November 15, 2017 and January 15, 2018, the
19 Agency shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Education on the
20 status and results of the program.

21 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

1 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the fiscal year 2018
2 appropriation from the Education Fund for special education shall be reduced
3 by \$1,000,000.00 from the fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the Education
4 Fund for special education.

5 Sec. 3. EDUCATION WEIGHTING STUDY COMMITTEE

6 (a) Creation. There is created the Education Weighting Study Committee
7 to consider and make recommendations on the criteria used for determining
8 weighted long-term membership of a school district under 16 V.S.A. § 4010.

9 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following **nine**
10 members:

11 (1) two current members of the House of Representatives, **not from the**
12 **same party,** who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

13 (2) two current members of the Senate, **not from the same party,** who
14 shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees;

15 (3) the Secretary of Education or designee;

16 **(4) the Secretary of Human Services or designee;**

17 (5) the Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendent's Association
18 or designee;

19 (6) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or
20 designee; and

1 (7) the Executive Director of the Vermont National Education
2 Association or designee.

3 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall consider and make
4 recommendations on the criteria used for the determining weighted long-term
5 membership of a school district under 16 V.S.A. § 4010, including the
6 following:

7 (1) the relationship between each of the current weighting factors and
8 the quality and equity of educational outcomes for students;

9 (2) whether any of the weighting factors, including the weighting factors
10 for students from economically deprived backgrounds and for students for
11 whom English is not the primary language, should be modified, and if so, how
12 the weighting factors should be modified and why the modification would
13 further the quality and equity of educational outcomes for students; and

14 (3) whether to add any weighting factors, including a school district
15 population density factor, and if so, why the weighting factor should be added
16 and how the weighting factor would further the quality and equity of
17 educational outcomes for students.

18 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
19 and legal assistance of the Agency of Education.

1 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2018, the Committee shall submit a
2 written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education with its
3 findings and any recommendations.

4 (f) Meetings.

5 (1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the
6 Committee to occur on or before May 30, 2017.

7 (2) The Committee shall select a chair from among its members at the
8 first meeting.

9 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

10 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on January 16, 2018.

11 (g) Reimbursement.

12 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
13 Assembly, legislative members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
14 compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406 for
15 no more than seven meetings.

16 (2) Other members of the Committee who are not employees of the State
17 of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their
18 attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of
19 expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for no more than seven meetings.

20 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

21 This act shall take effect on passage.