

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to which was
3 referred House Bill No. 479 entitled “An act relating to establishing a
4 professional accreditation process” respectfully reports that it has considered
5 the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the
6 enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 5 is added to read:

8 Subchapter 5: Vermont Accreditation Board

9 § 140 DEFINITIONS

10 (a) For purpose of this subchapter:

11 (1) “Accreditation” means recognition by an independent organization
12 that a Certification Program has met predetermined standards.

13 (2) “Certification” means an official recognition by an organization
14 attesting that an individual has achieved a level of proficiency in a particular
15 field, using a combination of education, training, competency and examination
16 results.

17 § 141. VERMONT ACCREDITATION BOARD

18 (a) The Vermont Accreditation Board is created within the Office of the
19 Secretary of State.

20 (b) The Board shall be composed of the following members:

21 (1) The Commissioner of Labor or designee;

1 (2) The Secretary of Education or designee;

2 (3) The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or
3 designee;

4 (4) The Secretary of State or designee;

5 (5) The Superintendent of Career and Technical Education Centers; and

6 (6) Two at-large members appointed by the Governor.

7 (c) The purpose of the Board is to raise the standards and credibility of
8 certifications granted by Vermont Career and Technical Education Centers and
9 the Vermont State Colleges by ensuring that the programs issuing the
10 certifications meet standards of quality adopted by the Board.

11 (d)(1) The Board shall establish criteria to evaluate the ethical and
12 professional strength, viability, and relevance of new and existing
13 certifications, including:

14 (A) educational requirements;

15 (B) experience requirements;

16 (C) testing or examination requirements;

17 (D) annual education or maintenance requirements;

18 (E) accreditation by a credible, recognized third party.

19 (2) In the absence of an accrediting organization, the Board may
20 establish a process by which it will review a certification and issue its own
21 accreditation.

1 (e) The Board shall have the administrative and technical support of the
2 Office of Professional Regulation, which shall maintain the status of
3 certifications and accreditations.

4 (f) The Board shall not have jurisdiction of licensing review or review of
5 degree programs.

6 Sec. 2. 3. V.S.A. § 2703 is added to read:

7 § 2703. SUPERINTENDENT OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL
8 EDUCATION CENTERS

9 (a)(1) The position of Superintendent of Vermont Career and Technical
10 Education Centers is created within the Agency of Education.

11 (2) The position shall be funded through the Next Generation Initiative
12 Fund created in 16 V.S.A. § 2887.

13 (b) The Superintendent shall report directly to the Secretary of Education
14 and his or her duties shall include:

15 (1) coordinating curriculum development across all Vermont Career and
16 Technical Education Centers; and

17 (2) collaborating with the Agency of Commerce and Community
18 Development, the Department of Labor, and the Agency of Education to
19 determine the needs of Vermont employers; and

1 (3) ensuring that career and technical education opportunities provide
2 Vermont employees with the education and skills necessary to match the needs
3 of Vermont employers.

4 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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9 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE