

* * * Climate Economy Business Accelerator Program * * *

Sec. K.1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds:

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(b) Purpose. The purpose of Sec. K.2 of this act is to create a statutory framework to authorize the creation of the Climate Economy Business Accelerator Program capable of attracting and retaining young entrepreneurs in the State and to position Vermont as a national leader in climate economy innovation and to support the development of public-private partnerships to achieve these goals.

(c) Intent. The General Assembly does not intend the Climate Economy Business Accelerator Program to be a recipient of fiscal year 2018 General Fund appropriations. Rather, the intent of Sec. K.2 of this act is to authorize the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund to establish the Program and allow it to seek targeted investment through public-private partnerships from other funding sources if available.

Sec. K.2. 10 V.S.A. § 331 is added to read:

§ 331. CLIMATE ECONOMY BUSINESS ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

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Sec. K.3. BUSINESS INCUBATOR AND ACCELERATOR CONFERENCE

(a) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development, in collaboration with the Center for Entrepreneurial Programs at Castleton University, shall have the authority to convene, with internal or private funding if available, the first annual “Business Incubator and Accelerator Conference,” which shall be designed to facilitate networking, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas among business professionals and entrepreneurs, including those involved in incubators, microbusiness development programs, the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies, accelerators, regional development corporations, and businesses.

(b) Intent. The General Assembly does not intend the Business Incubator and Accelerator Conference to be a recipient of fiscal year 2018 General Fund appropriations. Rather, the intent of this section is to authorize the Agency and the University to convene the Conference and allow them to seek targeted investment through public-private partnerships from other funding sources if available.