Side-by Side Comparison of S.135
An Relating to Promoting Economic Development

Senate Proposal to
Further House Proposal to Senate Proposal to House Proposal to Senate Proposal to House Proposal to Senate Proposal to As Passed House May 11, 2017 @ 2:00 PM

(corrected)

Sections highlighted in yellow address the same subject but with differences highlighted in yellow within the text

Sections highlighted in turquoise are identical

Subject	Sec. Senate	Sec. House	Senate Proposal	House Proposal
VEGI – purpose statements for enhanced incentives	A.1	A.1	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
VEGI – attestation of compliance with State law	A.1	A.1	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
VEGI –confidentiality of business data	A.1	A.1	*[Deleted.]*	*[Deleted.]*
VEGI – Information sharing between VEPC and Tax	A.2.	A.2	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
VEGI – Recommendation for Reporting Compensation Data	-	A.3	*As proposed by Senate*	*As proposed by Senate*
Rural Infrastructure Development Initiative	B.1	B.1	*As Passed House*	*As Passed House*
Green Mountain Secure Retirement Plan	C.1	C.1	*As Passed House*	*As Passed House*
Public Retirement Study Committee	C.2	C.2	*As Passed House*	*As Passed House*
VOSHA Penalties	D.1	D.1	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
Workers' Compensation %	D.2	D.2	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
Workforce Development – Comprehensive Strategy	E.1	E.1	*As proposed by Senate*	*As proposed by Senate*
Workforce Development – Career training and planning	E.2	E.2	*As Passed House*	*As Passed House*
Workforce Development – Career Pathways Coordinator	-	E.3	Sec. E.3. CAREER PATHWAYS COORDINATOR (a) The Secretary of Administration shall have the authority to create a two-year limited service position of Career Pathways Coordinator within the Agency of Education. (b) The Career Pathways Coordinator shall work under the direction of the State Director for Career Technical Education, and his or her duties shall include the following: (1) serve as the inter-agency point person for the development of a State-approved Career Pathways System; (2) convene stakeholders across the Department of Labor, the Agency of Commerce and	Sec. E.3. 3. V.S.A. § 2703 is added to read: § 2703. CAREER PATHWAYS COORDINATOR (a) The Secretary of Administration shall have the authority to create the position of Career Pathways Coordinator within the Agency of Education. (b) The Career Pathways Coordinator shall work under the direction of the State Director for Career Technical Education, and his or her duties shall include the following: (1) serve as the inter-agency point person for the development of a State-approved Career Pathways System;

			Community Development, Agency of Education, Agency of Human Services, the Statewide Workforce Development Board, Career Technical Education, employers, postsecondary partners and related entities in order to create a series Career Pathways; (3) curriculum development, stakeholder engagement, process documentation, and identification of key performance indicators, outcomes collection and reporting; (4) engage statewide education, employer, and workforce organizations to co-develop statewide career pathways models and exemplars; (5) identify target populations and entry points; (6) review and develop competency models, required skill sets, and appropriate credentials at each step of a career pathway, in partnership with business and industry representatives; (7) coordinate employer validation of competencies and pathways; (8) develop targeted career ladders and lattices, including stackable skills and industry-recognized credentials; (9) work with CTE Directors to design and endorse elements of Career Pathways; (10) use labor market information and other relevant data to identify critical Career Pathways for the State; and (11) advise the Career Technical Education Director on the funding, governance, and access to career technical education in Vermont.	(2) convene stakeholders across the Department of Labor, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Agency of Education, Agency of Human Services, the Statewide Workforce Development Board, Career Technical Education, employers, postsecondary partners and related entities in order to create a series Career Pathways; (3) curriculum development, stakeholder engagement, process documentation, and identification of key performance indicators, outcomes collection and reporting; (4) engage statewide education, employer, and workforce organizations to co-develop statewide career pathways models and exemplars; (5) identify target populations and entry points; (6) review and develop competency models, required skill sets, and appropriate credentials at each step of a career pathway, in partnership with business and industry representatives; (7) coordinate employer validation of competencies and pathways; (8) develop targeted career ladders and lattices, including stackable skills and industry-recognized credentials; (9) work with CTE Directors to design and endorse elements of Career Pathways; (10) use labor market information and other relevant data to identify critical Career Pathways for the State; and (11) advise the Career Technical Education Director on the funding, governance, and access to career technical education in Vermont.
Workforce Development – Heating pilot project	-	E.4	*As Passed House*	*As Passed House*
Workforce Development – CTE dual enrollment MOU	-	E.5	*House as amended by conference*	*House as amended by conference*
Minimum Wage Study Benefits Cliff Report	F.1	F.1	*As Passed Senate with Conference revised language*	*As Passed Senate with Conference revised language*
Financial Technology Study	G.1	G.1	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
Housing – Outreach to Municipalities	H.1	H.1	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
Housing – Definition of Affordable Housing	H.2	H.2	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
Housing – Priority Housing	H.3	H.3	*As Passed House*	*As Passed House*
Housing – Priority Housing	H.4	H.4	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
Housing – Priority Housing	H.5	H.5	*As Passed House*	*As Passed House*
Housing - Stretch Code	H.6	H.6	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
Housing – Publication of Data	H.7	H.7	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
Housing – Downtown Tax Credit Increase	H.8	H.8	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
Housing – Downtown Tax Credit – time of claim	-	H.9	*As passed House*	*As passed House*
Housing – Tax Credit for Affordable Housing; Captive	H.9	H.10	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
Housing – Vermont State Housing Authority	H.10	H.11	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
Sales and Use Tax; Repeal; Aircraft	I.1	I.1	*As Passed Senate and House*	*As Passed Senate and House*
TIF – Finding	J.1	J.1	*As passed House*	*As passed House*
TIF – Lifting the Cap on new districts	J.2	J.2	*As passed House*	*As passed House*

TIF – General Assembly; annual consideration of additional districts	J.2	J.2	§ 1892. CREATION OF DISTRICT * * * (e) On or before January 15, 2018, the Joint Fiscal Office, with the assistance of the consulting Legislative Economist, the Department of Taxes, the State Auditor, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development in consultation with the Vermont Economic Progress Council, shall examine and report to the General Assembly on the use of both tax increment financing districts and other policy options for State assistance to municipalities for funding infrastructure in support of economic development and the capacity of Vermont to utilize TIF districts moving forward. (f) The report shall include: (1) a recommendation for a sustainable statewide capacity level for TIFs or comparable economic development tools and relevant permitting criteria; (2) the positive and negative impacts on the State's fiscal health of TIFs and other tools, including the General Fund and Education Fund; (3) the economic development impacts on the State of TIFs and other tools, both positive and negative; (4) the mechanics for ensuring geographic diversity of TIFs or other tools throughout the State; and (5) the parameters of TIFs and other tools in other states. (g) Annually, on and after January 15, 2019, the Joint Fiscal Office, with the assistance of the consulting Legislative Economist, the Department of Taxes, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development in consultation with the Vermont Economic Progress Council, shall examine the recommendations and conclusions of the tax increment financing capacity study and report created pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, and shall submit to the Emergency Board and to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance an updated summary report that includes: (1) an assessment of any material changes from the initial report concerning TIFs and other tools, and an assessment of the health and sustainability of the tax increment financing system in Vermont; (2) short-term and long-term projections on the positive and negative fiscal impacts of the TIF districts or other tools, as applicable, that are currently active or authorized in the State; (3) a review of the size and affordability of the net indebtedness for TIF districts and an estimate of the maximum amount of new long-term net debt that prudently may be authorized for TIF districts or other tools in the next fiscal year. (h) Annually, based on the analysis and recommendations included in the reports required in this section, the General Assembly shall consider the amount of new long-term net debt that prudently may be authorized for TIF districts in the next fiscal year and determine whether to expand the number of TIF districts or similar economic	§ 1892. CREATION OF DISTRICT * * * (e) On or before January 15, 2018, the Joint Fiscal Office, with the assistance of the consulting Legislative Economist, the Department of Taxes, the State Auditor, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development in consultation with the Vermont Economic Progress Council, shall examine and report to the General Assembly on the use of both tax increment financing districts and other policy options for State assistance to municipalities for funding infrastructure in support of economic development and the capacity of Vermont to utilize TIF districts moving forward. (f) The report shall include: (1) a recommendation for a sustainable statewide capacity level for TIFs or comparable economic development tools and relevant permitting criteria; (2) the positive and negative impacts on the State's fiscal health of TIFs and other tools, including the General Fund and Education Fund; (3) the economic development impacts on the State of TIFs and other tools, both positive and negative; (4) the mechanics for ensuring geographic diversity of TIFs or other tools throughout the State; and (5) the parameters of TIFs and other tools in other states. (g) Annually, on and after January 15, 2019, the Joint Fiscal Office, with the assistance of the consulting Legislative Economist, the Department of Taxes, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development in consultation with the Vermont Economic Progress Council, shall examine the recommendations and conclusions of the tax increment financing capacity study and report created pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, and shall submit to the Emergency Board and to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Ways and Means and the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Finance an updated summary report that includes: (1) an assessment of any material changes from the initial report concerning TIFs and other tools, and an assessment of the health and sustainability of the tax increment financing system in Vermont; (2) short-term and long-term projections on the positive and negative fiscal impacts of the TIF districts or other tools, as applicable, that are currently active or authorized in the State; (3) a review of the size and affordability of the net indebtedness for TIF districts and an estimate of the maximum amount of new long-term net debt that prudently may be authorized for TIF districts or other tools in the next fiscal year. (h) Annually, based on the analysis and recommendations included in the reports required in this section, the General Assembly shall consider the amount of new long-term net debt that prudently may be authorized for TIF districts in the next fiscal year and determine whether to expand the number of TIF districts or similar economic

			development tools in addition to the previously approved districts referenced in subsection (d) of this section and the seven additional districts authorized by 32 V.S.A. § 5404a(f).	development tools.
TIF – Additional Districts; Findings; Approval; Criteria	J.4	J.4	Sec. J.4. 32 V.S.A. § 5404a is amended to read: § 5404a. TAX STABILIZATION AGREEMENTS; TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICTS * * * (f) A municipality that establishes a tax increment financing district under 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5 shall collect all property taxes on properties contained within the district and apply ~~up to 75 percent~~ not more than 70 percent of the State education property tax increment, and not less than 85 percent of the municipal tax increment, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 1896, to repayment of financing of the improvements and related costs for up to 20 years pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1894, if approved by the Vermont Economic Progress Council pursuant to this section, subject to the following: (1) In a municipality with one or more approved districts, the Council shall not approve an additional district until the municipality retires the debt incurred for all of the districts in the municipality. (2) The Council shall not approve more than one district in a single county, and not more than seven districts in the State, provided: (A) The districts listed in 24 V.S.A. § 1892(d) shall not be counted against the limits imposed in this subdivision (2). (B) The Council shall consider complete applications in the order they are submitted, except that if during any calendar month the Council receives applications for more districts than are actually available in a county, the Council shall evaluate each application and shall approve the application that, in the Council's discretion, best meets the economic development needs of the county. (C) If, while the General Assembly is not in session, the Council receives applications for districts that would otherwise qualify for approval but, if approved, would exceed the seven-district limit in the State, the Council shall make one or more presentations to the Emergency Board concerning the applications, and the Emergency Board may, in its discretion, increase the seven-district limit. (3)(A) A municipality shall immediately notify the Council if it resolves not to incur debt for an approved district within five years of approval or a five-year extension period as required in 24 V.S.A. § 1894. (B) Upon receiving notification pursuant to subdivision (3)(A) of this subsection, the Council shall terminate the district and may approve a new district, subject to the provisions of this section and 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5. ~~(4) The Council shall not approve any additional districts on or after July 1, 2023 July 1, 2020.~~ * * *	Sec. J.4. 32 V.S.A. § 5404a is amended to read: § 5404a. TAX STABILIZATION AGREEMENTS; TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRICTS * * * (f) A municipality that establishes a tax increment financing district under 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5 shall collect all property taxes on properties contained within the district and apply ~~up to 75 percent~~ not more than 65 percent of the State education property tax increment, and not less than 85 percent of the municipal tax increment, ~~as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 1896,~~ to repayment of financing of the improvements and related costs for up to 20 years pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1894, if approved by the Vermont Economic Progress Council pursuant to this section, subject to the following: (1) In a municipality with one or more approved districts, the Council shall not approve an additional district until the municipality retires the debt incurred for all of the districts in the municipality. (2) The Council shall not approve more than two districts in a single county, and not more than an additional five districts in the State, provided: (A) The districts listed in 24 V.S.A. § 1892(d) shall not be counted against the limits imposed in this subdivision (2). (B) The Council shall consider complete applications in the order they are submitted, except that if during any calendar month the Council receives applications for more districts than are actually available in a county, the Council shall evaluate each application and shall approve the application that, in the Council's discretion, best meets the economic development needs of the county. (C) If, while the General Assembly is not in session, the Council receives applications for districts that would otherwise qualify for approval but, if approved, would exceed the five-district limit in the State, the Council shall make one or more presentations to the Emergency Board concerning the applications, and the Emergency Board may, in its discretion, increase the five-district limit. (3)(A) A municipality shall immediately notify the Council if it resolves not to incur debt for an approved district within five years of approval or a five-year extension period as required in 24 V.S.A. § 1894. (B) Upon receiving notification pursuant to subdivision (3)(A) of this subsection, the Council shall terminate the district and may approve a new district, subject to the provisions of this section and 24 V.S.A. chapter 53, subchapter 5. ~~(4) The Council shall not approve any additional districts on or after July 1, 2023 July 1, 2020.~~ * * *
TIF – Municipal Share of Increment **Share of Education Property**	J.3	J.3	Sec. J.3. 24 V.S.A. § 1894 is amended to read: § 1894. POWER AND LIFE OF DISTRICT * * * (b) Use of the education property tax increment. For only debt incurred within the	Sec. J.3. 24 V.S.A. § 1894 is amended to read: § 1894. POWER AND LIFE OF DISTRICT * * * (b) Use of the education property tax increment. For only debt incurred within the

Tax Increment			period permitted under subdivision (a)(1) of this section after creation of the district, and related costs, ~~up to 75 percent~~ not more than 70 percent of the education tax increment may be retained for up to 20 years, beginning with the education tax increment generated the year in which the first debt incurred for improvements financed in whole or in part with incremental education property tax revenue. Upon incurring the first debt, a municipality shall notify the Department of Taxes and the Vermont Economic Progress Council of the beginning of the 20-year retention period of education tax increment. (c) Use of the municipal property tax increment. For only debt incurred within the period permitted under subdivision (a)(1) of this section after creation of the district, and related costs, not less than ~~an equal share~~ 85 percent of the municipal tax increment pursuant to subsection (f) of this section shall be retained to service the debt, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred, pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. * * * (f) ~~Equal share required~~ Required share of increment. If any tax increment utilization is approved pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5404a(h), ~~no~~ not more than ~~75 percent~~ 70 percent of the State property tax increment and ~~no~~ not less than ~~an equal percent~~ 85 percent of the municipal tax increment may be approved by the Council or used by the municipality to service this debt. * * *	period permitted under subdivision (a)(1) of this section after creation of the district, and related costs, ~~up to 75 percent~~ not more than 65 percent of the education tax increment may be retained for up to 20 years, beginning with the education tax increment generated the year in which the first debt incurred for improvements financed in whole or in part with incremental education property tax revenue. Upon incurring the first debt, a municipality shall notify the Department of Taxes and the Vermont Economic Progress Council of the beginning of the 20-year retention period of education tax increment. (c) Use of the municipal property tax increment. For only debt incurred within the period permitted under subdivision (a)(1) of this section after creation of the district, and related costs, not less than ~~an equal share~~ 85 percent of the municipal tax increment pursuant to subsection (f) of this section shall be retained to service the debt, beginning the first year in which debt is incurred, pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. * * * (f) ~~Equal share required~~ Required share of increment. If any tax increment utilization is approved pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5404a(h), ~~no~~ not more than ~~75 percent~~ 65 percent of the State property tax increment and ~~no~~ not less than ~~an equal percent~~ 85 percent of the municipal tax increment may be approved by the Council or used by the municipality to service this debt. * * *
TIF – Emergency Board Estimate	-	-	*[Deleted.]*	*[Deleted.]* See Sec. J.1, § 1892(e)-(h)
TIF – General Fund transfer to Education Fund	-	-	*[Deleted.]*	*[Deleted.]*
TIF – VEPC Criteria for Approval	J.4	J.4	(h) Criteria for approval. To approve utilization of incremental revenues pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall do all the following: (1)(A) Review each application to determine that the ~~new real property~~ infrastructure improvements proposed to serve the tax increment financing district and the proposed development in the district would not have occurred as proposed in the application, or would have occurred in a significantly different and less desirable manner than as proposed in the application, but for the proposed utilization of the incremental tax revenues. (B) The review shall take into account: ~~(A)~~(i) the amount of additional time, if any, needed to complete the proposed development within the tax increment district and the amount of additional cost that might be incurred if the project were to proceed without education property tax increment financing; ~~(B)~~(ii) how the proposed development components and size would differ, if at all, including, if applicable to the development, in the number of units of affordable housing, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4303, without education property tax increment financing; and	(h) Criteria for approval. To approve utilization of incremental revenues pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, the Vermont Economic Progress Council shall do all the following: (1) Review each application to determine that the ~~new real property~~ proposed infrastructure improvements and the proposed development would not have occurred in the district or would have occurred in a significantly different and less desirable manner in the district but for the proposed utilization of the incremental tax revenues. The review shall take into account: (A) the amount of additional time, if any, needed to complete the proposed development within the tax increment district and the amount of additional cost that might be incurred if the project were to proceed without education property tax increment financing; (B) how the proposed development components and size would differ, if at all, including, if applicable to the development, in the number of units of affordable housing, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4303, without education property tax increment financing; and

			~~(C)~~(iii)(I) the amount of additional revenue expected to be generated as a result of the proposed development; (II) the percentage of that revenue that shall be paid to the ~~education fund~~ Education Fund; (III) the percentage that shall be paid to the municipality; and (IV) the percentage of the revenue paid to the municipality that shall be used to pay financing incurred for development of the tax increment financing district. * * *	(C) the amount of additional revenue expected to be generated as a result of the proposed development; the percentage of that revenue that shall be paid to the ~~education fund~~ Education Fund; the percentage that shall be paid to the municipality; and the percentage of the revenue paid to the municipality that shall be used to pay financing incurred for development of the tax increment financing district. * * *
			(3) Location criteria. Determine that each application meets ~~one~~ at least two of the following three criteria: (A) The development ~~or redevelopment~~ is: (i) compact~~,~~; (ii) high density~~,~~; ~~and~~ or (iii) located in or near existing industrial areas.	(3) Location criteria. Determine that each application meets ~~one~~ at least two of the following three criteria: (A) The development ~~or redevelopment~~ is compact, high density, ~~and~~ or located in or near existing industrial areas.
			(B) The proposed district is within an approved growth center, designated downtown, designated village center, ~~or~~ new town center, or neighborhood development area.	(B) The proposed district is within an approved growth center, designated downtown, designated village center, ~~or~~ new town center, or neighborhood development area.
			(C) The development will occur in an area that is economically distressed, which for the purposes of this subdivision means that the ~~area has experienced patterns of increasing unemployment, a drop in average wages, or a decline in real property values~~ municipality in which the area is located has at least one of the following: (i) a median family income that is not more than 80 percent of the statewide median family income as reported by the Vermont Department of Taxes for the most recent year for which data are available; (ii) an annual average unemployment rate that is at least one percent greater than the latest annual average statewide unemployment rate as reported by the Vermont Department of Labor; or (iii) a median sales price for residential properties under six acres that is not more than 80 percent of the statewide median sales price for residential properties under six acres as reported by the Vermont Department of Taxes.	(C) The development will occur in an area that is economically distressed, which for the purposes of this subdivision means that the ~~area has experienced patterns of increasing unemployment, a drop in average wages, or a decline in real property values~~ municipality in which the area is located has at least one of the following: (i) a median family income that is not more than 80 percent of the statewide median family income as reported by the Vermont Department of Taxes for the most recent year for which data are available; (ii) an annual average unemployment rate that is at least one percent greater than the latest annual average statewide unemployment rate as reported by the Vermont Department of Labor; or (iii) a median sales price for residential properties under six acres that is not more than 80 percent of the statewide median sales price for residential properties under six acres as reported by the Vermont Department of Taxes.
			(4) Project criteria. Determine that the proposed development within a tax increment financing district will accomplish at least three of the following five criteria: (A) The development within the tax increment financing district clearly requires substantial public investment over and above the normal municipal operating or bonded debt expenditures. (B) The development includes new or rehabilitated affordable housing ~~that is affordable to the majority of the residents living within the municipality and is developed~~	(4) Project criteria. Determine that the proposed development within a tax increment financing district will accomplish at least three of the following five criteria: (A) The development within the tax increment financing district clearly requires substantial public investment over and above the normal municipal operating or bonded debt expenditures. (B) The development includes new or rehabilitated affordable housing ~~that is affordable to the majority of the residents living within the municipality and is developed~~

			~~at a higher density than at the time of application. "Affordable" has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 6001(29)~~, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4303. (C) The project will affect the remediation and redevelopment of a brownfield located within the district. As used in this section, "brownfield" means an area in which a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant is or may be present, and that situation is likely to complicate the expansion, development, redevelopment, or reuse of the property. (D) The development will include at least one entirely new business or business operation or expansion of an existing business within the district, and this business will provide new, quality, full-time jobs that meet or exceed the prevailing wage for the region as reported by the ~~department of labor~~ Department of Labor. (E) The development will enhance transportation by creating improved traffic patterns and flow or creating or improving public transportation systems.	~~at a higher density than at the time of application. "Affordable" has the same meaning as in 10 V.S.A. § 6001(29)~~, as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 4303. (C) The project will affect the remediation and redevelopment of a brownfield located within the district. As used in this section, "brownfield" means an area in which a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant is or may be present, and that situation is likely to complicate the expansion, development, redevelopment, or reuse of the property. (D) The development will include at least one entirely new business or business operation or expansion of an existing business within the district, and this business will provide new, quality, full-time jobs that meet or exceed the prevailing wage for the region as reported by the ~~department of labor~~ Department of Labor. (E) The development will enhance transportation by creating improved traffic patterns and flow or creating or improving public transportation systems.
TIF – Implementation	J.5	J.5	*Sec. J.5. IMPLEMENTATION* *Secs. J.1 and J.2 of this act shall apply only to tax increment financing district applications filed, and districts approved, on or after the date of passage of this act.*	*Sec. J.5. IMPLEMENTATION* *Secs. J.1– J.4 of this act shall apply only to tax increment financing district applications filed, and districts approved, on or after the date of passage of this act*
TIF – Capacity Study	-	J.10	[Deleted.]	[Deleted.] See Sec. J.1, § 1892(e)-(h)
Municipal TIF Districts	-	J.7-J.8	[Deleted.]	[Deleted.]
Climate Economy Accelerator	-	K.1-K.2	Sec. K.1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds: (1) Vermont needs to attract and support entrepreneurs, youths, and investors to reinvigorate its economy, today and for the future. (2) Vermont has a tremendous opportunity to systematically advance economic activity that addresses the challenge of climate change by reducing and mitigating carbon impacts, while spurring innovation and creativity, encouraging entrepreneurism, attracting youths, and building jobs for the future. (3) Vermont's unique environmental image, strong brand recognition nationally, quality of life, and history of entrepreneurism and invention provides an opportunity to position the State as a premier place to establish new businesses whose mission, products, and services can help society and our economy mitigate the effects of climate change. (4) The goal of quality job creation as part of the State's economic development policy is dependent on providing support for the start-up and expansion of small businesses sectors of our economy. (5) The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, the Vermont Council on Rural Development, and a working group of business, finance, and economic development leaders, are developing the Climate Economy Business Accelerator Program to grow entrepreneurial opportunities and provide a network for businesses to promote their solutions, products, and services that can lead to collaboration and innovation. (6) The Accelerator Program aims to accelerate the creation and growth of entrepreneurs that commercialize business solutions to address the negative impacts of climate change and position our State as the place to come and build businesses that export solutions for a changing climate worldwide. (7) Nationally, business accelerators have led to the growth of start-up companies, job creation, and enhanced entrepreneurial activity in a region. Most accelerators are located in major cities and throughout Canada. There are over 150 business accelerators in the United States at this time. (8) Neither Vermont, nor other New England States, have an accelerator program to support start-up businesses and serve the needs of both rural and urban businesses. (9) In early 2017 a climate change-related accelerator will launch in Philadelphia with a focus on	Sec. K.1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds: (1) Vermont needs to attract and support entrepreneurs, youths, and investors to reinvigorate its economy, today and for the future. (2) Vermont has a tremendous opportunity to systematically advance economic activity that addresses the challenge of climate change by reducing and mitigating carbon impacts, while spurring innovation and creativity, encouraging entrepreneurism, attracting youths, and building jobs for the future. (3) Vermont's unique environmental image, strong brand recognition nationally, quality of life, and history of entrepreneurism and invention provides an opportunity to position the State as a premier place to establish new businesses whose mission, products, and services can help society and our economy mitigate the effects of climate change. (4) The goal of quality job creation as part of the State's economic development policy is dependent on providing support for the start-up and expansion of small businesses sectors of our economy. (5) The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, the Vermont Council on Rural Development, and a working group of business, finance, and economic development leaders, are developing the Climate Economy Business Accelerator Program to grow entrepreneurial opportunities and provide a network for businesses to promote their solutions, products, and services that can lead to collaboration and innovation. (6) The Accelerator Program aims to accelerate the creation and growth of entrepreneurs that commercialize business solutions to address the negative impacts of climate change and position our State as the place to come and build businesses that export solutions for a changing climate worldwide. (7) Nationally, business accelerators have led to the growth of start-up companies, job creation, and enhanced entrepreneurial activity in a region. Most accelerators are located in major cities and throughout Canada. There are over 150 business accelerators in the United States at this time. (8) Neither Vermont, nor other New England States, have an accelerator program to support start-up businesses and serve the needs of both rural and urban businesses. (9) In early 2017 a climate change-related accelerator will launch in Philadelphia with a focus on

			technology development related to agriculture and water. (10) The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund program (VSJF) was created in 1995 to accelerate the development of Vermont's green economy. Per its enabling statute, VSJF focuses its development efforts on particular economic sectors by supporting the business assistance and financing needs of businesses in these sectors. (11) To date, VSJF has concentrated on working with early-stage and growth-stage businesses in the green economy, primarily due to a lack of sufficient funding support to work with start-up businesses. Additional funding for VSJF's Accelerator Program will enable it to fulfill its statutory mission. (12) A State investment of seed funding would leverage additional private and philanthropic investment to carry out this work and boost economic development, innovation, and job creation. (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, to position Vermont as a national leader in climate economy innovation, and to support the development of public-private partnerships to achieve these goals. Sec. K.2. 10 V.S.A. § 331 is added to read: § 331. CLIMATE ECONOMY BUSINESS ACCELERATOR PROGRAM (a) Definition. In this section "climate economy" means the work performed by businesses whose products and services are designed to reduce, mitigate, or prepare for the negative impacts of climate change on human systems, including: (1) clean energy development and distribution; (2) thermal and electrical efficiencies in buildings and building construction; (3) evolving public and private transportation systems; (4) energy and efficiency innovations in the working lands economy; (5) recycling, reuse, and renewal of resources; and (6) resilience technologies, such as soil-sensing devices. (b) Program implementation. The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund shall have the authority to design and implement, with internal or private funding if available, a Climate Economy Business Accelerator Program as follows: (1) Assemble a team of experienced program partners, mentors, investors, and business content providers to design and deliver a high quality experience to Accelerator Program cohort participants. (2) Recruit and select a cohort of at least 10 start-up and early-stage businesses to participate together in a three-to-four-month intensive program of training, mentoring, and investment opportunities. (3) Assist cohort members in clarifying the market for their products, evaluating the needs of their management teams, defining their business models, articulating their unique values, and securing needed investment capital. (4) Develop an evaluation and metrics capture process compatible with Results-Based Accountability and begin tracking results. (5) Develop a network of climate economy related businesses to work alongside the Accelerator Program in order to connect cohort members with the business community to spark business-to-business collaboration, stimulate additional job growth in the climate economy sector, and provide ongoing support as their businesses mature. (6) Raise additional program funding as needed from sponsors, partners, private foundations, and federal agencies to leverage State general funds. (c) Outcomes. The outcomes of the Program shall include: (1) Increase the success rate of start-up businesses in the climate economy sector in Vermont. (2) Create jobs in the climate economy sector. (3) Attract and retain young entrepreneurs who develop climate economy businesses in Vermont to serve local, national, and global markets. (4) Attract equity and venture capital to emerging climate economy start-up businesses in Vermont.	technology development related to agriculture and water. (10) The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund program (VSJF) was created in 1995 to accelerate the development of Vermont's green economy. Per its enabling statute, VSJF focuses its development efforts on particular economic sectors by supporting the business assistance and financing needs of businesses in these sectors. (11) To date, VSJF has concentrated on working with early-stage and growth-stage businesses in the green economy, primarily due to a lack of sufficient funding support to work with start-up businesses. Additional funding for VSJF's Accelerator Program will enable it to fulfill its statutory mission. (12) A State investment of seed funding would leverage additional private and philanthropic investment to carry out this work and boost economic development, innovation, and job creation. (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, to position Vermont as a national leader in climate economy innovation, and to support the development of public-private partnerships to achieve these goals. Sec. K.2. 10 V.S.A. § 331 is added to read: § 331. CLIMATE ECONOMY BUSINESS ACCELERATOR PROGRAM (a) Definition. 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(6) Raise additional program funding as needed from sponsors, partners, private foundations, and federal agencies to leverage State general funds. (c) Outcomes. The outcomes of the Program shall include: (1) Increase the success rate of start-up businesses in the climate economy sector in Vermont. (2) Create jobs in the climate economy sector. (3) Attract and retain young entrepreneurs who develop climate economy businesses in Vermont to serve local, national, and global markets. (4) Attract equity and venture capital to emerging climate economy start-up businesses in Vermont.

Business Incubator and Accelerator Conference	-	K.3	Sec. K.3 BUSINESS INCUBATOR AND ACCELERATOR CONFERENCE 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.	Sec. K.3 BUSINESS INCUBATOR AND ACCELERATOR CONFERENCE The Agency of Commerce and Community Development, in collaboration with the Center for Entrepreneurial Programs at Castleton University, shall have the authority to convene 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.
CAA - Microbusiness Development	-	L.1	As passed House	Sec. L.1. MICROBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM; FINDINGS; APPROPRIATION (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds: (1) Since 1989, the Microbusiness Development Program has provided free business technical assistance, including training and counseling, as well as access to capital to Vermonters with low income. (2) The Vermont Community Action Agencies work in conjunction with many partners, including other service providers, State agencies, business technical assistance providers, and both traditional and alternative lenders. (3) Each year the Program: (A) enables the creation or expansion of an average of 145 businesses across Vermont; (B) supports the creation of 84 new jobs; and (C) provides access to more than $1,100,000.00 in capital. (4) The average cost per job created through the Program is less than $3,600.00. (b) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to provide additional funding, subject to available resources, for the regional Microbusiness Development Programs pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 3722.
CAA - Financial Education	-	L.2	*[Deleted.]*	*[Deleted.]*
Small Business Development Center	-	M.1	As passed House and proposed by conference	Sec. M.1. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER In fiscal year 2018, it is the intent of the General Assembly to provide funding, subject to available resources, to the Vermont Small Business Development Center (SBDC) **for the purpose of increasing the number of SBDC business advisors, with priority to underserved regions of the State.**
Economic Development Marketing	-	M.2	Sec. M.2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MARKETING (a) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall have the authority, and may use available funds, to: (1) implement the Department of Economic Development's economic development marketing plan to attract and retain residents and businesses to Vermont, highlighting the many positive features that make Vermont a great place to live, work, and do business; and (2) prioritize marketing tactics with the potential to shift most efficiently and effectively perceptions about Vermont as a place to live and work, and that will form a set of marketing assets and strategic framework to sustain Department of Economic Development activities beyond initial implementation. (b) Funds available to implement this section may be matched with federal funds, special funds, grants, donations, and private funds. To increase the amount and effectiveness of marketing activities conducted, the Agency shall collaborate with private sector partners to maximize State marketing resources and to enable Vermont businesses	Sec. M.2. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MARKETING (a) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall have the authority, and may use available funds, to: (1) implement the Department of Economic Development's economic development marketing plan to attract and retain residents and businesses to Vermont, highlighting the many positive features that make Vermont a great place to live, work, and do business; and (2) prioritize marketing tactics with the potential to shift most efficiently and effectively perceptions about Vermont as a place to live and work, and that will form a set of marketing assets and strategic framework to sustain Department of Economic Development activities beyond initial implementation. (b) Funds available to implement this section may be matched with federal funds, special funds, grants, donations, and private funds. To increase the amount and effectiveness of marketing activities conducted, the Agency shall collaborate with private sector partners to maximize State marketing resources and to enable Vermont businesses

			to align their own brand identities with the Vermont brand, enhancing the reputations of both the business and the State. (c) Prior to taking any action pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, including issuing any requests for proposals for contracts or grants to partner with the Department in implementing this section, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall adopt relevant outcomes, performance measures, and indicators in order to: (1) clearly articulate the goals and expectations for the State's economic development marketing plan and its implementation, any contracts or grants with the Department, and for the activities of the Department and its partners; and (2) enable the General Assembly to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the plan and its implementation, and of the activities of the Department and its partners undertaken pursuant to this section.	to align their own brand identities with the Vermont brand, enhancing the reputations of both the business and the State. (c) For any economic development marketing plan implemented pursuant to this section, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall establish performance measures that support strategic priorities, including strengthening the State economy, before disbursing funds.
Wood Products Manufacturers Incentive	-	M.3	[Deleted.]	Sec. M.3. 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Sec. G.100(b), as amended by 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 51, Sec. G.9, and 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 172, Sec. E.801, is further amended to read: (b) Sec. E.100.6 (wood products manufacture incentive) shall take effect retroactively on January 1, 2014 and apply to tax years 2014, 2015, ~~and~~ 2016, 2017, and 2018.
Effective Dates	K.1	N.1	*TIF – Passage* *Remainder – July 1, 2017* Sec. E.1 Effective Date: On Passage	*TIF – Passage* *Remainder – July 1, 2017* Sec. E.1 Effective Date: On Passage