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H.270

Introduced by Representatives Lanpher of Vergennes, Bissonnette of  
Winooski, Christensen of Weathersfield, Christie of Hartford, Cina of  
Burlington, Conquest of Newbury, Donovan of Burlington, Dunn of Essex,  
Fields of Bennington, Gannon of Wilmington, Gonzalez of Winooski, Head of  
South Burlington, Hooper of Brookfield, Howard of Rutland City, Joseph of  
North Hero, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lefebvre of Newark, Long of  
Newfane, Lucke of Hartford, Macaig of Williston, Masland of Thetford, Miller  
of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Ode of Burlington,  
Partridge of Windham, Rachelson of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong  
of Albany, Sullivan of Burlington, Till of Jericho, Townsend of South  
Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, Webb of Shelburne, Weed of Enosburgh,  
Wood of Waterbury, Wright of Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; expanded learning opportunities; Expanded Learning  
Opportunities Review Committee; Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant  
Program

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create an  
Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs) Grant Program developed and  
administered by an ELO Review Committee to support and encourage

1 increased student participation in and access to ELO programs offered outside  
2 school hours and during the summer throughout Vermont.

3 An act relating to increasing expanded learning opportunities

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

5 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

6 (a) Data collected nationally reveal that children and youth are most likely  
7 to be in or cause automobile accidents, commit crimes, be victims of crime, or  
8 engage in risky behavior between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

9 (b) Multiple national studies conclude that:

10 (1) Students from families with low income regress academically and  
11 socially when they do not have access to the same types of learning  
12 experiences outside school hours and during the summer as more affluent  
13 students enjoy.

14 (2) Afterschool and summer learning programs provide critical supports  
15 for children living in poverty, including access to healthy snacks and meals.

16 (3) Afterschool and summer programs that specifically support students  
17 in building skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics  
18 (STEM) help prepare youth for the jobs of tomorrow. In the past decade, total  
19 employment in the technology sector in Vermont increased seven times faster  
20 compared to growth in all other Vermont jobs, and STEM fields in life and

1 physical science, engineering, and information technology occupations are  
2 growing at the fastest rates.

3 (4) Twenty-four percent of Vermont kindergarten–grade 12 children are  
4 currently enrolled in ELOs. However, only fourteen percent of Vermont  
5 children in an ELO after school program qualify for the federal free and  
6 reduced price lunch program, compared to forty-five percent nationally.

7 (5) The need for afterschool and summer programs is particularly high  
8 among working families. Thirty-three percent of parents of Vermont children  
9 who are not currently enrolled in an ELO program report that they would  
10 enroll their child if a program were available. In addition, parents identify  
11 ELO program cost as one of the primary barriers to enrollment.

12 (c) Research and analysis conducted by Vermont Afterschool, Inc. in 2014  
13 estimates that for every dollar spent on high-quality ELO programs, Vermont  
14 could realize \$2.18 in long-term savings and benefits.

15 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. chapter 100 is added to read:

16 CHAPTER 100. EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

17 § 2911. DEFINITIONS

18 As used in this title:

19 (1) “Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO)” means a structured  
20 program designed to serve prekindergarten through secondary school-aged  
21 children and youth outside the school day and year on a regular basis,

1 including before and after school and during the summer, by providing  
2 opportunities for personal, emotional, and academic growth for children and  
3 youth.

4 (2) “ELO Committee” means the Expanded Learning Opportunities  
5 Review Committee created by section 2912 of this chapter.

6 (3) “ELO Special Fund” means the Vermont Expanded Learning  
7 Opportunities Special Fund, created by section 2914 of this chapter.

8 (4) “ELO Grant Program” means the Expanded Learning Opportunities  
9 Grant Program created by section 2913 of this chapter.

10 § 2912. EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES REVIEW

11 COMMITTEE; REPORT

12 (a) Creation; membership. There is created an Expanded Learning  
13 Opportunities Review Committee, to be composed of the following members:

14 (1) the Secretary of Education or designee;

15 (2) the Commissioner for Children and Families or designee;

16 (3) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

17 (4) the Director of Vermont Afterschool, Inc. or designee;

18 (5) one current member of the House of Representatives, who shall be  
19 appointed by the Speaker of the House;

20 (6) one current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the  
21 Committee on Committees;

1           (7) one member representing private foundations or Vermont's  
2           philanthropic community, one member representing the business community,  
3           and one member representing the education community, appointed by the  
4           Prekindergarten-16 Council; and

5           (8) three members representing ELO programs that have been in  
6           operation since at least July 1, 2016, with one member to be appointed each by  
7           the Governor, the Speaker, and the Committee on Committees.

8           (b) Terms. ELO Committee members shall serve, commencing on  
9           January 1, three-year terms or until the member's earlier resignation or  
10           removal, except for legislative members, who shall be appointed to two-year  
11           terms that mirror their legislative terms. A non-legislative ELO Committee  
12           member may be appointed prior to January 1, 2018, in which case the initial  
13           term of that member shall extend to January 1, 2021. A legislative ELO  
14           Committee member may be appointed after the beginning of the legislator's  
15           legislative term and prior to January 1, 2018, in which case the initial term of  
16           that member shall extend to the end of the legislator's next two-year legislative  
17           term. The respective appointing authority shall fill a vacancy for the remainder  
18           of any unexpired term. An appointed member shall not serve more than three  
19           full consecutive terms. A legislator's service on the ELO Committee shall  
20           terminate on the date that the legislator no longer serves as a member of the  
21           General Assembly.

1       (c) Officers; subcommittees; rules. The ELO Committee shall elect a chair  
2       from among its members. It may elect other officers, establish subcommittees,  
3       and adopt procedural rules as it determines necessary and appropriate to  
4       perform its work.

5       (d) Quorum; voting; meetings.

6           (1) A majority of all members shall constitute a quorum.

7           (2) Action is taken by the ELO Committee if authorized by a majority of  
8       the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting at which a  
9       quorum is present.

10          (3) The ELO Committee may permit any or all members to participate  
11       in a regular or special meeting by, or conduct the meeting through the use of,  
12       any means of electronic communication by which all members participating  
13       may simultaneously or sequentially communicate with each other during the  
14       meeting. A member participating in a meeting by this means is deemed to be  
15       present in person at the meeting.

16       (e) Administrative support. The Agency of Education shall provide  
17       administrative support to the ELO Committee, pending available capacity.  
18       The Agency may approve administrative support services to be provided at no  
19       cost by one or more of the members of the ELO Committee.

20       (f) Compensation. For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the  
21       General Assembly, legislative members of the ELO Committee shall be

1 entitled to compensation and reimbursement for expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A.  
2 § 406.

3 (g) Initial meeting. On or before September 1, 2017, the Secretary of  
4 Education shall convene the first meeting of the ELO Committee.

5 (h) Report. Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), the ELO Committee shall  
6 report to the House and Senate Committees on Education and on  
7 Appropriations on or before January 15 annually regarding the ELO  
8 Committee's activities, applications received, and grants awarded under this  
9 chapter.

10 § 2913. EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

11 (a) ELO Grant Program created. There is created an Expanded Learning  
12 Opportunities Grant Program that shall award grants from the ELO Special  
13 Fund for the purpose of increasing access to ELOs throughout Vermont.

14 (b) Grants. The Agency of Education may award grants upon the  
15 recommendation of the ELO Committee to schools, school districts,  
16 supervisory unions, community organizations, nonprofit organizations, or  
17 licensed childcare centers.

18 (c) Duties of the ELO Committee. The ELO Committee shall:

19 (1) Collect information and data annually to determine the state and  
20 extent of ELOs in Vermont. This analysis shall include an exploration of  
21 trends in funding in Vermont and recommendations for how to leverage,

1 integrate, and augment available federal, local, and private dollars to meet the  
2 need for quality ELOs in communities throughout Vermont.

3 (2) Using the information collected in subdivision (1) of this subsection,  
4 develop all aspects of the ELO Grant Program, including creating an  
5 application process, setting funding priorities, and determining criteria for  
6 evaluating applications and for awarding grants and other incentives, such as  
7 professional development opportunities, for ELOs in Vermont.

8 (3) Recommend to the Agency of Education grants to be awarded from  
9 the ELO Special Fund.

10 (4) Work with the philanthropic and business communities in Vermont  
11 to pursue and accept grants or other funding from any public or private source  
12 for the ELO Special Fund.

13 (5) With the Agency of Education, monitor the administration of the  
14 ELO Grant Program and the implementation and use of the grant funds  
15 consistent with the terms of acceptance.

16 (d) Funding priorities. Depending on available funding, the ELO  
17 Committee may determine specific funding priorities for each grant award;  
18 however, the primary use of the funds shall be to expand:

19 (1) access to ELO programs for children and youth from families with  
20 low income;



1           (2) programming in parts of the State where few or no ELO options are  
2           currently available; and

3           (3) access to ELO programs that build skills in Science, Technology,  
4           Engineering, and Math (STEM) or support career awareness and workforce  
5           readiness skills, particularly for secondary school youth.

6           (e) Matching funds. Grants awarded pursuant to subsection (b) of this  
7           section shall be made on a one-for-one matching basis; provided, however, that  
8           grant recipients may satisfy this requirement through in-kind support and  
9           through the use federal funds.

10          (f) Data collection; accountability. Each ELO program that is awarded  
11          grant funds pursuant to the ELO Grant Program shall report annually to the  
12          Agency of Education on student participation and student outcomes pursuant  
13          to metrics established by the ELO Committee in connection with development  
14          of the criteria for evaluating applications and awarding grants. Required  
15          metrics shall be aligned within a result-based accountability framework and  
16          tied to key goals identified by the Agency of Education or the Department for  
17          Children and Families.

18          (g) Reporting. The Agency of Education shall share data on grant  
19          recipients and the annual grantee data on participation and outcomes under the  
20          ELO Grant Program with the ELO Committee. This information shall be

1 compiled annually for the fiscal year and included in the report from the ELO  
2 Committee required under subsection 2912(h) of this chapter.

3 § 2914 VERMONT EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES SPECIAL  
4 FUND

5 There is established a Vermont Expanded Learning Opportunities Special  
6 Fund comprising grants, donations, and contributions from any private or  
7 public source. Monies in the ELO Special Fund shall be available to the  
8 Agency of Education for the purpose of increasing access to ELOs throughout  
9 Vermont. The Commissioner of Finance and Management may draw warrants  
10 for disbursements from the Fund in anticipation of receipts. The Fund shall be  
11 administered pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5, except that interest  
12 earned and any remaining balance at the end of the fiscal year shall be retained  
13 and carried forward in the Fund.

14 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 2906 is amended to read:

15 ~~§ 2906. VERMONT EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES SPECIAL~~  
16 ~~FUND ESTABLISHED~~

17 ~~(a) As used in this section, "Expanded Learning Opportunity" means a~~  
18 ~~structured program designed to serve prekindergarten through secondary~~  
19 ~~school age children and youth outside the school day and year on a regular~~  
20 ~~basis, including before and after school and during the summer, by providing~~

1 ~~opportunities for personal, emotional, and academic growth for children and~~  
2 ~~youth.~~

3 ~~(b) There is established a Vermont Expanded Learning Opportunities~~  
4 ~~Special Fund comprising grants, donations, and contributions from any private~~  
5 ~~or public source. Monies in the Fund shall be available to the Agency for the~~  
6 ~~purpose of increasing access to expanded learning opportunities throughout~~  
7 ~~Vermont. The Commissioner of Finance and Management may draw warrants~~  
8 ~~for disbursements from this Fund in anticipation of receipts. The Fund shall be~~  
9 ~~administered pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5, except that interest~~  
10 ~~earned and any remaining balance at the end of the fiscal year shall be retained~~  
11 ~~and carried forward in the Fund. [Repealed.]~~

12 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on passage.