

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE

The Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs to which was referred Senate Bill No. S. 137, entitled "An act relating to promoting workforce development"

respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

\* \* \* Employment Strategies \* \* \*

Sec. 1. EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES FOR TARGET POPULATIONS

The Commissioner of Labor shall identify specific cohorts of Vermonters who, as a population, should be paired with specific employment strategies, including:

- (1) at-risk Vermont students in grades 9–12;
- (2) Vermonters 16 to 30 years of age who are not in the labor force;
- (3) unemployment beneficiaries with less than a college degree who are in need of relevant vocational training;
- (4) unemployment beneficiaries with at least a college degree who are in need of relevant vocational training;
- (5) potential new entrants to the workforce at all skill and educational levels;
- (6) new Americans;
- (7) older Vermonters; and
- (8) Vermonters who are currently employed and seeking to advance their skills through education, development, and training.

\* \* \* Apprenticeship and Youth Mentoring Program \* \* \*

Sec. 2. APPRENTICESHIP AND YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

(a) On or before October 1, 2017, the Department of Labor shall design and begin implementation of the Apprenticeship and Youth Mentoring Program, the purpose of which shall be to provide paid work experiences and paid or unpaid internships for Vermont youths, working with mentoring professionals, that have academic and occupational education as a component, including:

- (1) a summer youth employment program for high school juniors and seniors; and
- (2) nonseasonal employment, preapprenticeship programs, and on-the-job training, for an at-risk youth employment program targeted for at-risk

individuals 18 to 24 years of age.

(b) The Department shall implement the Program using funds from the State's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, and other State and federal sources, to the extent allowed under applicable law.

(c) The Department shall design the Program to serve not fewer than 150 individual Vermonters.

\* \* \* State Government; Workforce Development \* \* \*

### Sec. 3. STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM; REPORT

(a) A working group on State workforce development is created, composed of the following:

(1) a subgroup of not more than seven members of the State Workforce Development Board, designated by the Board, that:

(A) shall include the Chair of the Board, who shall serve as the Chair of the working group; and

(B) shall not include the Commissioner or Secretaries or their Deputies specified in subdivisions (2)–(5) of this subsection;

(2) the Commissioner of Labor or Deputy;

(3) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development or Deputy;

(4) the Secretary of Education or Deputy;

(5) the Secretary of Human Services or Deputy;

(6) a member of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs designated by the Senate Committee on Committees; and

(7) a member of the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development designated by the Speaker of the House.

(b) The working group, in collaboration with relevant State agencies, stakeholders, and workforce education and training providers, shall:

(1) assess Vermont's current workforce education, development, and training program and resource allocations;

(2) identify efficiencies and delivery models that more effectively allocate, reallocate, redirect, and deploy these resources to more dynamically serve the needs of Vermonters and Vermont employers; and

(3) design two or more options for a State workforce development system, at least one of which is not primarily based upon restructuring State

agencies and departments, that:

(A) align State efforts to train, employ, and improve the wages of Vermont's workforce and ensure collaboration and sustainable interagency partnerships within government;

(B) align the workforce development system to the needs of employers and current or prospective employees, through systematic and ongoing engagement and partnership;

(C) serve two customers with equal energy: the current or prospective employee and the employer;

(D) are engaged at the State and local levels with employers on an ongoing basis to ensure alignment with the workforce needs of employers; and

(E) expand access and accelerate Career and Technical Education to Vermont students in grades 9–12 and to Vermont adults.

(c) The working group shall have the administrative, legal, and fiscal support of the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office.

(d) In order to perform its duties pursuant to this act, the working group shall have the authority to request and gather data and information as it determines is necessary from entities that conduct workforce education and training programs and activities, including agencies, departments, and programs within the Executive Branch, and from nongovernmental entities that receive State-controlled funding. Unless otherwise exempt from public disclosure pursuant to State or federal law, a workforce education and training provider shall provide the data and information requested by the working group within a reasonable time.

#### Sec. 4. REPORT

On or before November 15, 2017, the Commissioner of Labor and the working group on State workforce development shall report to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development on the implementation of this act and any recommendations for legislative action.

\* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

#### Sec. 5 EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: 5-0-0)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Mullin  
FOR THE COMMITTEE