

1       Sec. 1. THINKVERMONT INNOVATION INITIATIVE

2       (A) The ThinkVermont Innovation Initiative is created to respond to the  
3       economic growth needs of Vermont, with emphasis on small businesses with  
4       20 or fewer employees, by funding innovative strategies that accelerate growth  
5       and meet the project criteria specified in this section. The Agency of  
6       Commerce & Community Development is encouraged to identify funds within  
7       and outside State government, with emphasis on funds that leverage multiple  
8       sources to execute strategies including those that:

9               (1) provide workforce training that is not eligible for funding through  
10              another State or federal program and that serves an immediate employer need  
11              to fill job vacancies;

12              (2) enable a business to attract, retain, or support remote workers in  
13              Vermont;

14              (3) establish or enhance facilities that attract small companies or remote  
15              workers;

16              (4) enable or support deployment of broadband telecommunications  
17              connectivity;

18              (5) leverage economic development funding outside State government,  
19              including the federal New Market Tax Credit program and Small Business  
20              Innovation Research grants;

- 1           (6) support growth in Vermont’s aerospace, aviation, or aviation
- 2           technology sectors; or
- 3           (7) provide technical assistance to support small business growth