

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs to  
3 which was referred Senate Bill No. 137 entitled “An act relating to promoting  
4 workforce development” respectfully reports that it has considered the same  
5 and recommends that Senate amend the bill by striking out all after the  
6 enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

8 Sec. 1. EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES FOR TARGET POPULATIONS

9 The Commissioner of Economic and Workforce Development shall identify  
10 specific cohorts of Vermonters who, as a population, should be paired with  
11 specific employment strategies, including:

12 (1) at-risk high school juniors and seniors;

13 (2) 16- to 30-year-old Vermonters who are not in the labor force;

14 (3) unemployment beneficiaries with less than a college degree who are  
15 in need of relevant vocational training;

16 (4) unemployment beneficiaries with at least a college degree who are in  
17 need of relevant vocational training;

18 (5) potential new entrants to the workforce at all skill and educational  
19 levels;

20 (6) new Americans; and

21 (7) older Vermonters.

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

2           Sec. 2. APPRENTICESHIP AND YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

3           (a) On or before October 1, 2017, the Department of Economic and  
4           Workforce Development shall design and begin implementation of the  
5           Apprenticeship and Youth Mentoring Program, the purpose of which shall be  
6           to provide paid work experiences for Vermont youths, working with mentoring  
7           professionals, that have academic and occupational education as a component,  
8           including:

9                   (1) a summer youth employment program for high school juniors and  
10                  seniors; and

11                  (2) nonseasonal employment, preapprenticeship programs, and on-the-  
12                  job training, for an at-risk youth employment program targeted for 18–24-year-  
13                  old, at-risk men and women.

14           (b) The Department shall implement the Program using funds from the  
15           State’s Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grant from the U.S.  
16           Department of Labor.

17           (c) The Department shall design the Program to serve no fewer than 150  
18           individual Vermonters.

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

20           Sec. 3. STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM; REPORT

1        (a) On or before November 15, 2017, in collaboration with relevant State  
2        agencies, stakeholders, and workforce education and training providers, a  
3        working group on State workforce development shall submit a report to the  
4        Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs  
5        and to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development on  
6        strategies to structure a State workforce development system that:

7                (1) aligns State efforts to train, employ, and improve the wages of  
8        Vermont’s workforce and ensures collaboration and sustainable interagency  
9        partnerships within government;

10               (2) is consistent with the goals identified in the Vermont Unified State  
11        Plan for workforce development;

12               (3) serves employers and employees with equal energy;

13               (4) ensures ongoing engagement and partnership with employers at the  
14        state and local level.

15        (b) The working group shall include:

16               (1) the Operating Committee of the State Workforce Investment Board,  
17        which shall convene one or more meetings and provide administrative support  
18        to the group;

19               (2) the Commissioner of Labor;

20               (3) the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development;

21               (4) the Secretary of Education;

1           (5) the Secretary of Human Services;

2           (6) the chair of the Senate Committee on Economic Development,

3           Housing and General affairs, or designee; and

4           (7) the chair of the House Committee on Commerce and Economic

5           Development, or designee.

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8           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE