

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

12 (1) at-risk Vermont high school students in grades 9–12;

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14 (1a) expand access and accelerate Career and Technical Education to
15 Vermont’s 9th through 12th grade high school students and Vermont adults.

16 [Not sure how to integrate this proposal - this list identifies “cohorts of
17 Vermonters” rather than the specific strategies]

18

19 (2) 16- to 30-year-old Vermonters who are not in the labor force;

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

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

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

5 (6) new Americans;

6 (7) older Vermonters; and

7 (8) Vermonters who are currently employed and seeking to advance
8 their skills through education, development, and training.

9 * * * Apprenticeship and Youth Mentoring Program * * *

10 Sec. 2. APPRENTICESHIP AND YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

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

16 (1) a summer youth employment program for high school juniors and
17 seniors; and

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

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

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

6 * * * State Government; Workforce Development * * *

7 Sec. 3. STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM; REPORT

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

10 (1) a designated subgroup of the State Workforce Development Board,
11 which shall convene one or more meetings and provide administrative support
12 to the group;

13 (2) the Commissioner of Labor;

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

15 (4) the Secretary of Education;

16 (5) the Secretary of Human Services;

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

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

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

3 (1) assess Vermont’s current workforce education, development, and
4 training program and resource allocations and make recommendations to find
5 efficiencies and delivery models that more effectively allocate, reallocate,
6 redirect, and deploy these resources to more dynamically serve the needs of
7 Vermonters and Vermont employers; and

8 (2) explore strategies to structure a State workforce development system
9 that:

10 (A) aligns State efforts to train, employ, and improve the wages of
11 Vermont’s workforce and ensures collaboration and sustainable interagency
12 partnerships within government;

13 (B) aligns the workforce development system to the needs of
14 employers, as well as job seekers, through systematic and ongoing engagement
15 and partnership;

16 (C) serves two customers with equal energy: the job seeker or
17 employee, and the employer; and

18 (D) in order to be in alignment with the workforce needs of
19 employers, is engaged at the State and local level with employers on an
20 ongoing basis.

1 (c) On or before November 15, 2017, the working group shall submit a
2 report to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and
3 General Affairs and to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic
4 Development on its findings and recommendations.

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7 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE