

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;

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;

21 (7) older Vermonters; and

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

3 * * * Apprenticeship and Youth Mentoring Program * * *

4 Sec. 2. APPRENTICESHIP AND YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

21 * * * State Government; Workforce Development * * *

1 Sec. 3. STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM; REPORT

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

4 (1) a subgroup of the State Workforce Development Board, designated
5 by the Board, which in conjunction with the Department of Labor shall
6 convene one or more meetings [and provide administrative support to the
7 group]:

8 (2) the Commissioner of Labor, or Deputy;

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

11 (4) the Secretary of Education, or Deputy;

12 (5) the Secretary of Human Services, or Deputy;

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

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

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

20 (1) [propose] [design and create] a process for:

1 (A) assessing Vermont’s current workforce education, development,
2 and training program and resource allocations; and

3 (B) identifying efficiencies and delivery models that more effectively
4 allocate, reallocate, redirect, and deploy these resources to more dynamically
5 serve the needs of Vermonters and Vermont employers; and

6 (2) explore strategies to structure a State workforce development system
7 that:

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

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

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

16 (D) is engaged at the State and local level with employers on an
17 ongoing basis to ensure alignment with the workforce needs of employers; and

18 (E) expands access and accelerates Career and Technical Education
19 to Vermont students in grades 9–12 and to Vermont adults.

20 (b) The Work Group shall have the administrative, legal, and fiscal support of
21 the Office of Legislative Council and the Joint Fiscal Office.

22 (c) In order to perform its duties pursuant to this act, the Work Group shall

1 have the authority to request and gather data and information as it determines
2 is necessary from entities that conduct workforce education and training
3 programs and activities, including agencies, departments, and programs within
4 the Executive Branch and from nongovernmental entities that receive
5 state-controlled funding. Unless otherwise exempt from public disclosure
6 pursuant to state or federal law, a workforce education and training provider
7 shall provide the data and information requested by the Work Group within a
8 reasonable time

9 **Sec. 4. REPORT**

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

15
16
17 (Committee vote: _____)

18 _____

19 Senator _____

20 FOR THE COMMITTEE