

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 students in grades 9–12;

13 (2) Vermonters 16 to 30 years of age 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 at-risk  
14                   individuals 18 to 24 years of age.

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.

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

2           Sec. 3. STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM; REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19                           (7) a member of the House Committee on Commerce and Economic  
20 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;

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

8            (3) design two or more options for a State workforce development  
9        system, at least one of which is not primarily based upon restructuring State  
10       agencies and departments, that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14           Sec. 4. REPORT

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

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

21           Sec. 5 EFFECTIVE DATE

22           This act shall take effect on passage.

1

2

3 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

4

\_\_\_\_\_

5

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

6

FOR THE COMMITTEE