

No. 80. An act relating to workforce development.

(H.533)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

* * * Workforce Training; Vermont Training Program;

Weatherization * * *

Sec. 1. VERMONT TRAINING PROGRAM; WORKFORCE TRAINING
ALLOCATIONS

(a) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall allocate Vermont Training Program funding to increase by 10 percent in each of the next two years:

(1) the number of trainees who receive a credential of value or participate in a registered apprenticeship; and

(2) the amount of training funds provided to businesses with 50 or fewer employees.

(b) In its annual report submitted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 531(k) the Agency shall specifically address:

(1) whether it was able to achieve the allocations specified in subsection (a) of this section, and if not, the reasons;

(2) the distribution of training funds by the number of employees of each business that benefitted from training;

(3) the distribution of training funds that resulted in an employee obtaining a credential of value or apprenticeship; and

(4) the extent to which the Program benefitted businesses with 50 or fewer employees.

Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 531 is amended to read:

§ 531. THE VERMONT TRAINING PROGRAM

* * *

(d) In order to avoid duplication of programs or services and to provide the greatest return on investment from training provided under this section, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall:

(1) consult with the Commissioner of Labor regarding whether the grantee has accessed, or is eligible to access, other workforce education and training resources;

(2) disburse grant funds only for training hours that have been successfully completed by employees; ~~provided that, except for an award under an enhanced incentive for workforce training as provided in 32 V.S.A. § 3336;~~

(A) a grant for on-the-job training shall either provide not more than 50 percent of wages for each employee in training or not more than 50 percent of trainer expense, but not both; ~~and further provided that~~

(B) training shall be performed in accordance with a training plan that defines the subject of the training, the number of training hours, and how the effectiveness of the training will be evaluated; and

(3) use funds under this section only to supplement training efforts of employers and not to replace or supplant training efforts of employers.

* * *

(k) Annually on or before January 15, the Secretary shall submit a report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs. In addition to the reporting requirements under section 540 of this title, the report shall identify:

(1) all active and completed contracts and grants;

(2) from among the following, the category the training addressed:

(A) preemployment training or other training for a new employee to begin a newly created position with the employer;

(B) preemployment training or other training for a new employee to begin in an existing position with the employer;

(C) training for an incumbent employee who, upon completion of training, assumes a newly created position with the employer;

(D) training for an incumbent employee who, upon completion of training assumes a different position with the employer;

(E) training for an incumbent employee to upgrade skills;

- (3) for the training identified in subdivision (2) of this subsection whether the training is ~~onsite~~ on-site or classroom-based;
- (4) the number of employees served;
- (5) the average wage by employer;
- (6) any waivers granted;
- (7) the identity of the employer, or, if unknown at the time of the report, the category of employer;
- (8) the identity of each training provider;
- (9) whether training results in a wage increase for a trainee, and the amount of increase; ~~and~~
- (10) the aggregated median wage for employees invoiced for training during the reporting period;
- (11) the percentage growth in wages and the percentage growth in the median wage for all wage earners in the State during the reporting period; and
- (12) the number, type, and description of grants for work-based learning programs and activities awarded pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

Sec. 3. WORKFORCE TRAINING; PRIORITY SECTORS

- (a) The Department of Labor shall work with qualified training providers to increase the availability of training programs that lead to a credential of value in the health care, construction, manufacturing, and child care sectors, as follows:

(1) The Department shall coordinate with the Office of Economic Opportunity within the Department for Children and Families to support training opportunities for individuals interested in becoming employed in the home or commercial weatherization industry, including:

(A) recruiting Vermonters who are eligible for funding under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to participate in training programs;

(B) identifying operations for weatherization training programs; and

(C) providing stipends and wage subsidies for training participants if funding is available.

(2) The Department shall coordinate with the Child Development Division within the Department for Children and Families to support training opportunities for new or incumbent workers in the field of early care and learning.

(3) The Department shall work to connect health care, long-term care, and mental health providers with postsecondary education providers, including adult career and technical education, to expand pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships, and other occupational training programs in health care.

(b) In performing its work to increase the availability of training programs that lead to a credential of value, the Department of Labor shall recognize issues faced by persons with historical barriers to employment or who are underrepresented in the workforce, including persons who have faced

discrimination based on race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, refugee status, and national origin; persons in recovery; persons with a history of incarceration; and persons with disabilities.

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 2846 is amended to read:

§ 2846. ~~NONDEGREE~~ ADVANCEMENT GRANTS

(a) The Corporation may establish ~~grant programs~~ an advancement grant program for residents pursuing nondegree education and training opportunities who do not meet the definition of student in subdivision 2822(3) of this title, and who may not meet the requirements of this subchapter.

(b) ~~Nondegree~~ Advancement grants may be used at institutions that are not approved postsecondary education institutions.

(c) The Corporation may adopt rules or establish policies, procedures, standards, and forms for ~~nondegree~~ advancement grants, including the requirements for applying for and using the grants and the eligibility requirements for the institutions where the grants may be used.

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 546 is added to read:

§ 546. STATE POSTSECONDARY ATTAINMENT GOAL

(a) It shall be the goal of the State of Vermont that not less than 70 percent of working-age Vermonters will hold a credential of value, as defined by the State Workforce Development Board, by the year 2025.

(b) It is the policy of the State of Vermont to:

- (1) promote awareness of career pathways and the value of postsecondary education and training;
- (2) expand access to postsecondary education and training to students of all ages;
- (3) increase completion of postsecondary education and training programs by ensuring that Vermonters have the supports they need to succeed; and
- (4) maximize partnerships across and within sectors to achieve State workforce development and education goals.

(c) In its annual report required in section 540 of this title, the Department shall include the number of postsecondary credentials awarded and the data sets that are used to inform the report.

Sec. 6. POSTSECONDARY CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
SYSTEM

(a) Findings; purpose.

(1) Findings. The General Assembly finds:

(A) Like many rural states, Vermont faces demographic realities that have resulted in an historically low unemployment rate and created obstacles for employers that seek to hire and retain enough fully trained employees.

(B) Notwithstanding this high employer demand, due to rapidly changing technology and evolving business needs, potential employees may lack the particular skills and training necessary to qualify for available jobs.

(C) In order to assist employers and employees in matching demand to requisite skills, Vermont has a broad diversity of postsecondary workforce education and training programs offered by multiple providers, including programs administered or funded by State government, educational institutions, and business-lead groups such as the Vermont Talent Pipeline Management Project. The State should continue to work closely with these providers to identify and meet the needs of employers and employees.

(2) Purpose. Consistent with the goals and purposes of 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 189, pursuant to which the State Workforce Development Board and other stakeholders are currently engaged in planning the design and implementation of a fully integrated workforce development system, it is the purpose of the General Assembly to explore the creation of a fully integrated postsecondary career and technical education system that:

(A) provides Vermonters throughout the State with high quality programs that are standardized, replicable, and offered with regularity and consistency;

(B) coordinates, or integrates where appropriate, the many programs and providers to maximize the efficient use of training resources; and

(C) features a governance structure that provides consistency across the system whenever appropriate, but also provides the flexibility necessary to respond to local and regional workforce demands.

(b) Postsecondary CTE System.

(1) The Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Agency of Education, the Vermont State Colleges, and the Vermont Adult Technical Education Association, and any consultant the Department hires for that purpose, shall consider and report to the General Assembly on the design, implementation, and costs of an integrated postsecondary career and technical education system that achieves the results specified in subdivision (a)(2) of this section.

(2) In performing their work, the Department, stakeholders, and any consultant shall conduct a broad-based stakeholder engagement process to solicit input from interested parties, and State agencies and departments shall provide necessary information and assistance within their relative areas of expertise.

(c) Report. On or before January 15, 2020, the Department of Labor shall submit a report on its work and any recommendations for legislative action to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(d) In performing its work to create an integrated postsecondary career and technical education system, the Department shall recognize issues faced by persons with historical barriers to employment or who are underrepresented in the workforce, including persons who have faced discrimination based on race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, refugee status, and national origin;

persons in recovery; persons with a history of incarceration; and persons with disabilities.

Sec. 7. MILITARY RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

(a) The Department of Labor shall work with the Vermont National Guard and public and private employers to design and implement an on-site military base and installation recruitment program that encourages service members separating from military service to relocate to Vermont.

(b) The Department shall coordinate with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to support marketing and outreach for recruitment events.

(c) The Department shall report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Appropriations and to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Appropriations concerning implementation and outcomes of this program during the 2020 legislative session.

Sec. 8. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; REPORT

(a) The Office of Professional Regulation, in consultation with the Vermont Board of Nursing, Vermont State Colleges, the University of Vermont, Norwich University, and other interested stakeholders, shall review statutory, regulatory, and accreditation standards for nursing programs within the State and nationally with the purpose of identifying barriers to recruitment and retention of nurse educators in nursing education programs.

(b) The Office of Professional Regulation shall evaluate the appropriateness of the level of credential and experience currently required for nurse educators in clinical settings.

(c) On or before December 15, 2019, the Office of Professional Regulation shall report its findings, including recommendations for any statutory or regulatory changes, or economic development initiatives, to facilitate recruitment and retention of nurse faculty, to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Government Operations and to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Government Operations.

Sec. 9. SUPPORTING NEW AMERICANS IN THE WORKFORCE

(a) The State of Vermont shall take steps necessary to provide support to employers and to New Americans in the Vermont workforce as follows:

(1) The Department of Labor shall simplify the process and reduce barriers for employers seeking to access Department funding for English language classes.

(2) The Department of Labor shall work with U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) Vermont to increase employers' awareness of free services available through USCRI Vermont, including on site English language classes.

(3) The Department of Labor shall develop and make available to employers a collection of best practices for addressing the unique language,

transportation, cultural, and other challenges New Americans face in the workforce.

(4) The Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Community College of Vermont or other partners, shall explore the development of a work readiness certificate or program for New American employees.

(5) The Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Vermont Chamber of Commerce or other partners, shall explore the development of a “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity” certificate or program, or similar initiative, for employers seeking to establish a New American–friendly workplace.

(6) The Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Department of Human Resources, shall explore measures to ensure that the State’s Employee Assistance Program offers services and support that is responsive to the particular pressures and challenges facing New Americans. The Departments shall share best practices with private employers that offer similar employee assistance programs.

(7) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall explore whether State marketing funds should be targeted to New Americans in other states to inform them of Vermont’s inclusive workplace practices and employment opportunities.

(b) To the extent not otherwise addressed in its work pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Department shall assess:

(1) recommendations identified in relevant studies and reports;

- (2) cultural competency support needed in Vermont's employment settings;
- (3) training, apprenticeship, and mentorship needs and opportunities;
- (4) tools and supports needed for refugees to effectively apply preexisting educational and professional credentials in Vermont settings; and
- (5) additional supports needed to ensure employment opportunities, including child care and transportation.

(c) The State entities named in subsection (a) of this section shall report to the General Assembly concerning the implementation of this section on or before January 15, 2020.

Sec. 10. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR; FIDELITY BONDS

Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Labor in fiscal year 2020 from the Workforce Education and Training Fund, the Department shall allocate not more than \$3,000.00 to purchase fidelity bonds through the Federal Bonding Program to provide insurance against theft or loss for insurers to hire workers with barriers to employment.

Sec. 11. CORRECTIONS; WORKFORCE TRAINING

(a)(1) The Department of Corrections, in collaboration with the Department of Labor, shall provide a standardized program of education and training for all new and existing probation and parole officers that includes components related to:

(A) minimizing barriers for offenders to obtaining and maintaining employment; and

(B) minimizing the impact of program and supervision requirements on the offender's employment, including monitoring and facilitating compliance with Department of Corrections case plan goals based on best practices and consistent with public safety.

(2) The Department of Corrections shall ensure that all incumbent probation and parole officers receive the education and training under the program on or before July 1, 2020.

(b) For each inmate who is sentenced to six months or longer, the Department of Corrections, in collaboration with the Department of Motor Vehicles and other necessary partners:

(1) shall assess if the inmate has access to a valid government-issued identification; and

(2) if not, upon verification of Vermont residency and other eligibility, shall provide the inmate with at least one form of government-issued identification.

(c) On or before December 1, 2019, the Departments of Corrections and of Labor shall report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Corrections and Institutions and to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Institutions concerning the implementation of this section.

Sec. 12. NEW WORKER RELOCATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

(a) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall design and implement a New Worker Relocation Incentive Program to award incentive grants to new workers as provided in this section and subject to the policies and procedures the Agency adopts to implement the Program.

(b) Incentives for new workers. A new worker may be eligible for a grant under the Program for qualifying expenses, subject to the following:

(1) A base grant for a new worker shall not exceed \$5,000.00.

(2) The Agency may award an enhanced grant, which shall not exceed \$7,500.00, for a new worker who relocates to a labor market area in this State in which:

(A) the average annual unemployment rate in the labor market area exceeds the average annual unemployment rate in the State; or

(B) the average annual wage in the State exceeds the annual average wage in the labor market area.

(c) The Agency shall:

(1) adopt procedures for implementing the Program, which shall include a simple certification process to certify new workers and qualifying expenses;

(2) promote awareness of the Program, including through coordination with relevant trade groups and by integration into the Agency's economic development marketing campaigns;

(3) award grants on a first-come, first-served basis beginning January 1, 2020, subject to available funding; and

(4) adopt measurable goals, performance measures, and an audit strategy to assess the utilization and performance of the Program

(d) On or before October 1, 2020, the Agency shall submit a report to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs concerning the implementation of this section, including:

(1) a description of the policies and procedures adopted to implement the Program; and

(2) the promotion and marketing of the Program.

(e) As used in this section:

(1) “New worker” means an individual who on or after January 1, 2020:

(A) becomes a full-time resident of this State;

(B) becomes a full-time employee of a business domiciled or authorized to do business in this State;

(C)(i) is employed in an occupation identified by the Department of Labor in its 2016–2026 Long Term Occupational Projections as one of the top occupations at each level of educational attainment typical for entry; or

(ii) who the Agency determines should otherwise receive an incentive grant under the Program because the worker possesses exceptional education, skills, or training or due to other extraordinary circumstances; and

(D) whose gross wage for the position equals or exceeds:

(i) 160 percent of the State minimum wage; or

(ii) if the employer is located in a labor market area in which the average annual unemployment rate is higher than the average annual unemployment rate for the State, 140 percent of the State minimum wage.

(2) “Qualifying expenses” means the actual costs that a new worker incurs for one or more of the following:

(A) relocation expenses, which may include closing costs for a primary residence; rental security deposit; first month’s rent payment; and other expenses established in Agency guidelines; and

(B) expenses necessary for a new worker to perform his or her employment duties, including connectivity costs, specialized tools and equipment, and other expenses established in Agency guidelines.

Sec. 13. 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 196, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. SIMPLIFYING GOVERNMENT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

(a) The Secretary of State shall serve as the chair of a steering committee, composed of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development, and the Secretary of Digital Services or their designees.

(b) The Secretary of State, in collaboration with the steering committee, and in collaboration with other State agencies and departments and interested stakeholders as necessary, shall:

(1) review and consider the necessary procedural and substantive steps to enhance the Secretary of State's one-stop business portal for businesses, entrepreneurs, and citizens to provide information about starting and operating a business in Vermont; and

(2) submit on or before December 15, ~~2018~~ 2019:

(A) a design proposal that includes a project scope, timeline, roadmap, and cost projections; ~~and~~

(B) any statutory or regulatory changes needed to implement the proposal; and

(C) a sustainable funding model for the portal.

(c) The steering committee shall evaluate the cost and efficacy, and integrate into the current one-stop portal to the extent feasible, features that:

(1) enhance State websites to simplify registrations and provide a clear compilation of other State business requirements, including permits and licenses;

(2) simplify the mechanism for making payments to the State by allowing a person to pay amounts he or she owes to the State for taxes, fees, or other charges to a single recipient within State government;

(3) simplify annual filing requirements by allowing a person to make a single filing to a single recipient within State government and check a box if nothing substantive has changed from the prior year;

(4) provide guidance, assistance with navigation, and other support to persons who are forming or operating a small business;

(5) after registration, provide information about additional and ongoing State requirements and a point of contact to discuss questions or explore any assistance needed;

(6) provide guidance and information about State and federal programs and initiatives, as well as State partner organizations and Vermont-based businesses of interest; and

(7) map communication channels for project updates, including digital channels such as e-mail, social media, and other communications.

(d) State agencies and departments shall provide assistance to the steering committee upon its request.

(e) The steering committee shall focus its review on providing services through the one-stop business portal primarily for the benefit of businesses with 20 or fewer employees.

(f) The Agency of Digital Services shall assign a project manager or business analyst to report directly to the Secretary of State to assist with the implementation of this act through June 30, ~~2019~~ 2020 for the purpose of developing and implementing a one-stop navigable portal for businesses, entrepreneurs, and citizens to access information about starting a business in Vermont, and to provide ongoing support to businesses interfacing with State government.

Sec. 14. AGENCY OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT; REPORT

On or before January 15, 2020, the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Appropriations and to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on Appropriations concerning how best to collaborate with regional partners and form formal partnerships that will promote international trade, as well as educational and cultural exchanges, between and among Vermont, the New England states, and foreign nations.

Sec. 15. 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 197, Sec. 1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. NEW REMOTE WORKER GRANT PROGRAM

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “New remote worker” means an individual who:

(A) is a full-time employee of a business with its domicile or primary place of business within or outside Vermont;

(B) becomes a full-time resident of this State on or after January 1, 2019; and

(C) performs the majority of his or her employment duties remotely from a home office or a co-working space located in this State.

(2) “Qualifying remote worker expenses” means actual costs a new remote worker incurs for one or more of the following that are necessary to perform his or her employment duties:

- (A) relocation to this State;
- (B) computer software and hardware;
- (C) broadband access or upgrade; and
- (D) membership in a co-working or similar space.

(b)(1) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall design and implement the New Remote Worker Grant Program, which shall include a simple certification process to certify new remote workers and certify qualifying expenses for a grant under this section.

(2) A new remote worker may be eligible for a grant under the Program for qualifying remote worker expenses in the amount of not more than \$5,000.00 per year, not to exceed a total of \$10,000.00 per individual new remote worker over the life of the Program.

(3) The Agency shall award grants under the Program on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to available funding, as follows:

- ~~(A) not more than \$125,000.00 in calendar year 2019;~~
- ~~(B) not more than \$250,000.00 in calendar year 2020;~~
- ~~(C) not more than \$125,000.00 in calendar year 2021; and~~
- ~~(D) not more than \$100,000.00 per year in each subsequent calendar~~

~~year, to the extent funding remains available.~~

* * *

Sec. 16. REPEAL

32 V.S.A. § 3336 (enhanced incentive for workforce training) is repealed.

Sec. 17. DELIVERY OF VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

DEGREE PROGRAMS AT CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION
CENTERS IN VERMONT; STUDY; PILOT PROGRAMS

(a) Study by Vermont Technical College. The Vermont Technical College (VTC) shall study how to best deliver all or a portion of fully accredited VTC associate degree programs at CTE centers in Vermont. The study shall explore the viability of a new program to provide a locally convenient and financially affordable option to high school students and adult learners who want, while still enrolled with their CTE centers, to also enroll in a high-demand, high-skill, industry-specific associate degree offering. VTC shall collaborate with the CTE centers and the Agency of Education in conducting the study. In structuring the study, VTC shall consider:

- (1) alignment of degree programs with workforce priority needs and career pathways identified by the Agency of Education;
- (2) prevailing industry wages and gender equity in each identified career pathway;
- (3) coherence with existing, State-supported postsecondary programs for secondary students, such as dual enrollment and early college programs under

the flexible pathways laws, including potential impacts to, and alignment with, those programs;

(4) sustainable funding models, including costs for students, institutions, and adults;

(5) the financial risks of programmatic and funding model changes, with the goals of not negatively impacting the accreditation status or the financial status of any institution; and

(6) management of class scheduling and CTE partnerships to ensure access and programmatic success.

(b) Reports.

(1) On or before December 15, 2019, VTC shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education and the State Board of Education with its findings and recommendations from the study required under subsection (a) of this section.

(2) If VTC recommends from its study that all or a portion of fully accredited VTC associate degree programs should be offered at CTE centers in Vermont, then VTC shall, in the fall 2020 semester, conduct up to two pilot programs that offer these degree programs in at least two CTE centers. If these pilot programs are conducted, on or before January 15, 2021, VTC shall submit a supplemental written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education and the State Board of Education with its findings and recommendations from the pilot programs.

(c) Any program designed and implemented pursuant to this section subsequent to the pilots shall not be funded by the General Fund.

Sec. 18. 31 V.S.A. § 707 is amended to read:

§ 707. REGISTRATION AND FEES

* * *

(e)(1) All fees collected under this section shall be credited to a special fund for the Department to be expended for carrying out its duties under this chapter and may also be expended as provided pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) The Passenger Tramway Board may expend amounts that it determines to be appropriate from the special fund established pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection for the purpose of contributing to ski lift mechanic education, job training, and apprenticeship programs.

Sec. 19. 10 V.S.A. § 541a(d) is amended to read:

(d) Operation of Board.

(1) Member representation.

(A) A member of the State Board may send a designee that meets the requirements of subdivision (B) of this subdivision (1) to any State Board meeting who shall count toward a quorum and shall be allowed to vote on behalf of the Board member for whom he or she serves as a designee.

(B) Members of the State Board or their designees who represent organizations, agencies, or other entities shall be individuals with optimum

policymaking authority or relevant subject matter expertise within the organizations, agencies, or entities.

(C) The members of the Board shall represent diverse regions of the State, including urban, rural, and suburban areas.

(2) Chair. The Governor shall select a chair for the Board from among the business representatives appointed pursuant to subdivision (c)(18) of this section.

(3) Meetings. The Board shall meet at least three times annually and shall hold additional meetings upon call of the Chair.

(4) ~~Work groups; task forces~~ Committees; work groups; ad hoc committees. The Chair, in consultation with the Commissioner of Labor, may:

(A) assign one or more members or their designees to standing committees, ad hoc committees, or work groups to carry out the work of the Board; and

(B) appoint one or more ~~members of the Board, or nonmembers of the Board, or both, to one or more task forces for a discrete purpose and duration~~ to a standing committee, ad hoc committee, or work group and determine whether the individual serves as an advisory or voting member, provided that the number of voting nonmembers on a standing committee shall not exceed the number of Board members or their designees.

(5) Quorum meetings; voting.

(A) A majority of the sitting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, and to be valid any action taken by the Board shall be authorized by a majority of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present.

(B) The Board may permit one or more members to participate in a regular or special meeting by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communication, including an electronic, telecommunications, and video- or audio-conferencing conference telephone call, by which all members participating may simultaneously or sequentially communicate with each other during the meeting. A member participating in a meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting.

(C) The Board shall deliver electronically the minutes for each of its meetings to each member of the Board and to the Chairs of the House Committees on Education and on Commerce and Economic Development, and to the Senate Committees on Education and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs.

(D) The Board may adopt in its bylaws the quorum, membership, and procedural requirements for standing committees.

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Sec. 20. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

The \$2,000,000.00 appropriated from the General Fund for economic development initiatives in Sec. C.100(30) of H.542 (2019) shall be allocated pursuant to this section.

(1) \$1,725,000.00 is allocated to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development as follows:

(A)(i) \$450,000.00 for economic development marketing:

(I) \$225,000 for economic development marketing pursuant to its authority in 3 V.S.A. § 2476(c) to execute the State's core Economic Development Marketing Plan through paid, owned, and earned media, utilizing technology, data, and analysis tools; and

(II) \$225,000.00 to identify, recruit, and provide relocation assistance to workers, including:

(aa) identifying target audiences;

(bb) targeting through digital and social media; and

(cc) implementing strategies that convert visitors to residents and awarding grants for regional partnerships to help recruitment efforts at the local and regional levels.

(ii) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Agency shall have the discretion to reallocate not more than \$225,000.00 of the funding allocated in this subdivision (1)(A) to provide additional incentives under the New Worker Relocation Incentive Program.

(B) \$80,000 for grants for regional marketing and workforce recruitment initiatives that work in concert with Statewide efforts; and

(C) \$1,195,000.00 to provide incentives that assist workers and families relocating to Vermont under the New Worker Relocation Incentive Program.

(2) \$275,000.00 is allocated to the Department of Labor to expand opportunities for apprenticeships, training, and postsecondary career and technical education through the workforce education and training fund created in 10 V.S.A. § 543 and to perform its duties pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 540(1).

Sec. 21. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

Date Governor signed bill: June 20, 2019