

1 H.473

2 Introduced by Representatives Strong of Albany, Batchelor of Derby, Quimby

3 of Concord, Troiano of Stannard, and Young of Greensboro

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Education; public schools; high schools; scholarship funds

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require school
8 districts with a high school to establish a scholarship fund for each high school
9 within the district to provide funding for students to pursue an avenue of study
10 or program that is not available in the student's high school.

11 An act relating to the creation of scholarship funds for high school students

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

13 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

14 The purpose of this act is to create local scholarship funds to encourage
15 students to explore opportunities that are not otherwise available to them to
16 further their personal educational interests and talents and to help provide
17 exciting and inspirational learning opportunities. These opportunities may
18 include international exchange programs, science academies, art institutes, and
19 special college programs for secondary students. Students who are eligible for
20 the scholarships would be expected to demonstrate exceptional passion,

1 dedication, or talent in a subject or a program that is not available or is not
2 available to the same extent in the school in which the student is enrolled. The
3 scholarship program is intended to enhance the quality and reputation of
4 Vermont secondary schools across the country and to help attract young
5 families with children to make Vermont their home.

6 Sec. 2. SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

7 (a) Each school district with a high school shall establish an “I Have a
8 Dream Scholarship Fund” for each high school within the district. In each of
9 fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023, the school district shall deposit into the
10 Fund for each high school within the district an amount equal to one half of the
11 average announced tuition of Vermont union high schools for that fiscal year.
12 The school district shall maintain that level of funding for each high school
13 within the district thereafter. The school district may accept private donations
14 into the Fund, but those private donations shall not count toward the amount of
15 funding that the school district is required to maintain.

16 (b) Commencing with the 2023–2024 school year and thereafter, high
17 school students may apply to the board of the school district for a scholarship,
18 paid from the Fund set aside for that student’s high school, to pursue an avenue
19 of study or a program that is not available in the student’s high school. The
20 board shall give preference to students in their junior year who make a
21 commitment to share their learning experience with other students during their

1 senior year. The amount and terms of the scholarship award shall be
2 determined by the board.

3 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.