

Sec. B.1100 NEXT GENERATION; APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERS

(a) In fiscal year 2020, \$2,315,900 is appropriated or transferred from the Next Generation Initiative Fund created in 16 V.S.A. § 2887 as prescribed:

(1) Workforce education and training. The amount of \$1,335,900 as follows:

(A) Workforce Education and Training Fund (WETF). The amount of \$1,335,900 is transferred to the Vermont Workforce Education and Training Fund created in 10 V.S.A. § 543 and subsequently appropriated to the Department of Labor for workforce education, training, apprenticeship, internship, returnship, and other on-the-job training activities that lead to employment. Up to ten percent of the funds may be used for administration of the program. \$350,000 shall be allocated for infrastructure and grants for internships through the Vermont Internship Program pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 544.

(B) Adult Career Technical Education Programs. The amount of \$400,000 is appropriated to the Department of Labor for the purpose of awarding grants to regional technical centers and high schools to provide adult career technical education as the term is defined in 16 V.S.A. § 1522. Each of the seventeen (17) regional Career Technical Education (CTE) Centers that provides Adult CTE programs shall be awarded a base grant of \$20,000. These grants may be used to support adult program staff or instructor salaries, scholarships for eligible adult CTE students, or curriculum development for adult CTE courses. \$60,000 will be allocated to support the coordination and organization of the state's regional adult career technical education programs.

(C) The amount of \$100,000 is appropriated to the Department of Labor and shall be allocated to support the Vermont Returnship Program pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 545. The Department of Labor may award a performance grant to assist in the coordination, outreach, and implementation of the program.

(D) The amount of \$75,000 is appropriated to the Department of Labor and shall be allocated to support workforce education and training activities for Vermont inmates in the state's correctional facilities or for former offenders seeking to reenter the labor force. The Department may fund these activities directly or in coordination with the Department of Corrections, a local restorative justice center, a Regional Career Technical Education Center, or other qualified training provider. Training opportunities funded with this allocation will be aligned with an identified employment need, and when possible, should result in an industry recognized credential.

Note: this section has also been sent to the House Committees on Commerce & Economic Development, and Education.

(E) The amount of \$277,310 is appropriated to the Department of Labor to be awarded in support of demand-driven trainings or programs aimed at meeting employment needs throughout the state. High-priority sectors include: health care, construction, manufacturing, transportation, hospitality, and business services. Grants may be awarded to training providers, businesses, or service providers who help out-of-school youth, veterans, dislocated workers, mature workers, individuals in recovery, or geographically isolated job seekers to overcome barriers to employment.

(F) The remaining amount of \$133,590 is appropriated to the Department of Labor to be used for administration of the program.

(2) Loan repayment. The amount of \$30,000 as follows:

(A) Large animal veterinarians' loan repayment. The amount of \$30,000 is appropriated to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets for a loan repayment program for large animal veterinarians pursuant to 6 V.S.A. § 20.

(3) Scholarships and grants. The amount of \$950,000 as follows:

(A) Non-degree VSAC grants. The amount of \$564,000 is appropriated to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. These funds shall be for the purpose of providing nondegree grants to Vermonters to fund enrollment in a post-secondary education or training program, including adult technical education courses that are not part of a degree or accredited certificate program, and registered apprenticeship programs. A portion of these funds may be used for indirect educational expenses to students enrolled in training programs. The grants shall not exceed \$2,500 per student. None of these funds shall be used for administrative overhead.