

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to which was  
3 referred Senate Bill No. 162 entitled “An act relating to promoting economic  
4 development” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and  
5 recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by  
6 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the  
7 following:

8 \* \* \* New Worker Relocation \* \* \*

9 Sec. 1. NEW WORKER RELOCATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

10 (a) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall design  
11 and implement a New Worker Relocation Incentive Program.

12 (b) A new worker may be eligible for a grant under the Program for  
13 qualifying expenses in the amount of not more than \$7,500.00, consistent with  
14 the following limitations and subject to the policies and procedures the Agency  
15 adopts to implement the program:

16 (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a base grant  
17 for a new worker shall not exceed \$5,000.00.

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

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

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

3           (3) The Agency shall award grants on a first-come, first-served basis  
4           beginning January 1, 2020, subject to available funding.

5           (c) The Agency shall:

6           (1) adopt procedures for implementing the Program, which shall include  
7           a simple certification process to certify new workers and certify qualifying  
8           expenses for a grant under this section;

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

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

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

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

20           (2) the promotion and marketing of the Program;

1 ~~(3) any additional recommendations for qualifying new worker expenses~~  
2 ~~or qualifying workers that should be eligible under the Program, and~~

3 ~~(4) any recommendations for the maximum amount of the grant.~~

4 (e) As used in this section:

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

6 (A) is a full-time employee of a business domiciled or registered to  
7 do business in Vermont; and

8 (B) becomes a full-time resident of this State on or after January 1,  
9 2020.

10 (2) “Qualifying expenses” means the actual costs that a new worker  
11 incurs for:

12 (A) relocation expenses;

13 (B) down payment assistance;

14 (C) initial rental deposits; and

15 (D) up to \$750.00 for one or more passes, tickets, subscriptions,

16 admissions, licenses, packages, or memberships, that allow a new worker [and

17 his or her immediate family members] to participate in the recreational and

18 cultural opportunities offered in this State [.]

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20 [, which a new worker shall select from a list of approved activities

21 adopted by the Agency]

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[which may be purchased or offered through the Agency or one or more designated partners]

[, subject to the policies, procedures, and limitations for the Program adopted by the Agency]

[, which may include access to Vermont outdoor recreational activities; athletic or cultural events; art, science, history, cultural, or other museums or galleries; and musical, theatrical, or other performing arts events.

[, which may include:

(i) access to winter recreational activities, including tickets, passes, or memberships for a Vermont ski area or trail system, ice skating venue, snowmobile trail system, recreational organizations, or other recreational venues, and expenses for the purchase or rental of skiing, skating, ice climbing, or other recreational equipment;

(ii) access to summer recreational activities including tickets, passes, or memberships for a mountain bike area or trail system, the Vermont State Parks, nature centers, recreational organizations, or other recreational venues, a Vermont hunting, fishing, boating, or other license, and expenses for

1 the purchase or rental of biking, camping, boating, hunting, fishing or other  
2 recreational equipment;

3 (iii) admission or membership for Vermont professional athletic or  
4 events or for athletic or cultural events at the University of Vermont, the  
5 Vermont State Colleges, and private Vermont colleges and universities;

6 (iv) admission or membership for Vermont art, science, history,  
7 cultural, or other museums or galleries; and

8 (v) admission or membership for musical, theatrical, or other  
9 performing arts events or series offered at Vermont theatres, center for  
10 performing arts, or other venues.

11  
12 \* \* \* Remote Worker Program \* \* \*

13 Sec. 2. 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 197, Sec. 1(b)(3) is amended to read:

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

16 ~~(A) not more than \$125,000.00 in calendar year 2019;~~

17 ~~(B) not more than \$250,000.00 in calendar year 2020;~~

18 ~~(C) not more than \$125,000.00 in calendar year 2021; and~~

19 ~~(D) not more than \$100,000.00 per year in each subsequent calendar~~  
20 ~~year, to the extent funding remains available.~~

1                   \* \* \* Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program \* \* \*

2           Sec. 3. REPEAL

3                   32 V.S.A. § 3336 (enhanced incentive for workforce training) is repealed.

4           Sec. 4. VERMONT EMPLOYMENT GROWTH INCENTIVE; PROGRESS

5                   REPORT

6                   On or before December 15, 2019, the Vermont Economic Progress Council  
7                   shall submit to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and  
8                   General Affairs and to the House Committee on Commerce and Economic  
9                   Development a progress report and any recommendations for legislative  
10                   changes following an evaluation of the Vermont Employment Growth  
11                   Incentive Program by the Council, which may include assistance from an  
12                   outside consultant.

13                                           \* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

14           Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

15                   This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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2 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE