

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 * * * Eliminating Calendar Year Limits on the Remote Worker Program * * *

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

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

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

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

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

15 ~~(D) not more than \$100,000.00 per year in each subsequent calendar~~

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

17 * * * Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program * * *

18 Sec. 2. REPEAL

19 32 V.S.A. § 3336 (enhanced incentive for workforce training) is repealed.

1 Sec. 3. VERMONT EMPLOYMENT GROWTH INCENTIVE; PROGRESS
2 REPORT

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

10 (1) the application process, compliance costs, and general accessibility
11 of the Program to businesses of varying sizes and sectors;

12 (2) use and effectiveness of the “but for” test, the background growth
13 rate, and enhanced incentives;

14 (3) the accuracy and effectiveness of the models the Council and the
15 Department of Taxes use in administering the Program; and

16 (4) the sufficiency and accuracy of the data, information reporting
17 mechanisms, and control mechanisms the Council and the Department use in
18 forecasting, measuring, and confirming performance.

19 * * * Permitting and State-Owned Airports * * *

20 Sec. 4. FINDINGS

21 The General Assembly finds:

1 (1) On January 15, 2019, the Secretary of Commerce and Community
2 Development and the Secretary of Transportation updated the State’s
3 Economic Development and Economic Development Marketing Plans to
4 incorporate the marketing of State-owned airports as an important tool for
5 attracting and retaining businesses, enhancing workforce development,
6 spearheading crucial technology advancements, and growing commerce
7 essential to Vermont’s future.

8 (2) On January 15, 2019, the Secretary of Transportation submitted to
9 the General Assembly its Feasibility Evaluation of Electric Vehicle Charging
10 Stations, Electric Aircraft Charging Stations, and Renewable Energy
11 Generating Plants at State-Owned Airports Pursuant to Act 108 of 2018. The
12 Evaluation noted that State-owned airports are suitable sites for electric vehicle
13 charging stations and electric aircraft charging stations, and that solar
14 photovoltaic installations can be compatible with airport operations.

15 Sec. 5. DEFINITIONS

16 As used in this act:

17 (1) “State-owned airport master permit” means all permits necessary to
18 construct infrastructure, buildings, runway access, and related assets in support
19 of general aviation and aviation-focused commercial and manufacturing
20 enterprises at State-owned airports, excluding activities associated with runway
21 expansion and infrastructure required for general airport operations. Permits

1 included in the State-owned airport master permit include any applicable Act
2 250 permit, any applicable permits issued by the Agencies of Natural
3 Resources and of Transportation, the Division of Fire Safety, the Natural
4 Resources Board, and the Public Utility Commission.

5 (2) “State-owned airport permit master plan” means a comprehensive
6 plan to construct infrastructure, buildings, runway access, and related assets in
7 support of general aviation and aviation-focused commercial and
8 manufacturing enterprises at State-owned airports, excluding activities
9 associated with runway expansion and infrastructure required for general
10 airport operations. State-owned airport permit master plans may be developed
11 by the Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Agency of
12 Commerce and Community Development, for the review and approval by the
13 Agency of Natural Resources, the Department of Public Safety, the Natural
14 Resources Board, and the Public Utility Commission prior to the submission of
15 applications for permits in the State-owned airport master permit.

16 (3) “Renewable energy” has the same meaning as in 30 V.S.A. § 8002.

17 (4) “Renewable energy generating plant” means real and personal
18 property, including any equipment, structure, or facility used for or directly
19 related to the generation of electricity from renewable energy.

1 Sec. 6. APPLICATIONS FOR MASTER PERMITS

2 (a) The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Agency of
3 Commerce and Community Development, is encouraged to obtain, as swiftly
4 as practicable, all permits in the State-owned master airport permit necessary
5 for growth, development, and facility upgrades at each State-owned airport.
6 State-owned airport permit master plans shall include charging stations for
7 electrified aircraft and, when practical, renewable energy generating plants that
8 advance the State’s preference to utilize all roof space for photovoltaic
9 installations.

10 (b) In processing permits in the State-owned airport master permit sought
11 by the Agency of Transportation, State agencies, departments, commissions,
12 and boards may waive permit fees for all permits in the State-owned airport
13 master permit provided that a State-owned airport permit master plan was
14 reviewed and approved prior to the submission of any applications for permits
15 in the State-owned master airport permit.

16 * * * Delivery of Vermont Technical College

17 Degree Programs at CTE Centers; Study; Pilot Programs * * *

18 Sec. 7. DELIVERY OF VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

19 DEGREE PROGRAMS AT CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

20 CENTERS IN VERMONT; STUDY; PILOT PROGRAMS

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

10 (1) alignment of degree programs with workforce priority needs and
11 career pathways identified by the Agency of Education;

12 (2) prevailing industry wages and gender equity in each identified career
13 pathway;

14 (3) coherence with existing, State-supported postsecondary programs for
15 secondary students, such as dual enrollment and early college programs under
16 the flexible pathways laws, including potential impacts to, and alignment with,
17 those programs;

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

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

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

6 (b) Reports.

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

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

19 * * * Workforce Training;

20 Vermont Training Program; Weatherization * * *

21 Sec. 8. VERMONT TRAINING PROGRAM; WORKFORCE TRAINING

1 ALLOCATIONS

2 (a) In an effort to promote access to training opportunities for Vermont
3 small businesses, and to increase the resources available for employees to
4 obtain credentials of value or apprenticeships, of the amounts appropriated to
5 the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the Vermont
6 Training Program in fiscal year 2020:

7 (1) the Agency, working in partnership with the Department of Labor to
8 identify appropriate opportunities, shall employ its best efforts to allocate
9 25 percent of Program funding to provide training that results in a credential of
10 value or apprenticeship; and

11 (2) the Agency shall employ its best efforts to allocate 25 percent of
12 Program funding to provide training for businesses with 50 or fewer
13 employees.

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

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

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

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

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

18 Sec. 10. WORKFORCE TRAINING; WEATHERIZATION

- 19 (a) In fiscal year 2020 the Office of Economic Opportunity within the
- 20 Department for Children and Families shall provide grant funding to the five

1 Home Weatherization Assistance Programs for the purpose of recruiting and
2 training individuals in the home weatherization industry.

3 (b) Grantees may use the funding for:

4 (1) recruiting Vermonters who are eligible for funding under the federal
5 Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act;

6 (2) operations for weatherization training programs, including training
7 coordinators across the State; and

8 (3) stipends and wage subsidies for training participants.

9 (c) The Home Weatherization Assistance Programs are also encouraged to
10 apply for the federal Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act grant funds
11 through the Department of Labor to supplement and enhance the
12 weatherization training programs.

13 (d) On or before January 15, 2020, the Departments of Labor and for
14 Children and Families shall report to the House Committee on Commerce and
15 Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Economic
16 Development, Housing and General Affairs with recommendations on best
17 practices for recruiting, training, and retaining the weatherization workforce in
18 this State.

1 Sec. 11. 16 V.S.A. § 2846 is amended to read:

2 § 2846. ~~NONDEGREE~~ ADVANCEMENT GRANTS

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

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

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

13 Sec. 12. 10 V.S.A. § 546 is added to read:

14 § 546. STATE POSTSECONDARY ATTAINMENT GOAL

15 (a) It is the policy of the State of Vermont to:

16 (1) grow awareness of postsecondary pathways and the individual and
17 public value of continued education after high school;

18 (2) expand postsecondary access so that students of all ages and
19 backgrounds can pursue postsecondary education and training;

20 (3) increase postsecondary success by ensuring that Vermonters have
21 the supports they need to complete a credential of value; and

1 (4) maximize partnerships across and within sectors to achieve State
2 workforce development and education goals.

3 (b) In order to meet workforce and labor market demands, the State of
4 Vermont shall take steps necessary to achieve a postsecondary attainment goal
5 that not less than 70 percent of working-age Vermonters possess a degree or
6 credential of value, as defined by the State Workforce Development Board, by
7 the year 2025.

8 * * * Adult Career and Technical Education System * * *

9 Sec. 13. ADULT CTE SYSTEM

10 (a) Findings; purpose.

11 (1) Findings. The General Assembly finds:

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

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

19 (C) In order to assist employers and employees in matching demand
20 to requisite skills, Vermont has a broad diversity of adult workforce
21 education and training programs offered by multiple providers, including

1 programs administered or funded by State government, educational
2 institutions, business and industry, and private professionals.

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

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

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

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

18 (b) Adult CTE System.

19 (1) The Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Agency of
20 Education, the Vermont State Colleges, and the Vermont Adult Technical
21 Education Association, shall issue a request for proposals for consulting

1 services, the purpose of which shall be to consider and report to the General
2 Assembly on the design, implementation, and costs of an integrated adult
3 career and technical education system that achieves the results specified in
4 subdivision (a)(2) of this section.

5 (2) In performing his or her work, the consultant shall conduct a broad-
6 based stakeholder engagement process to solicit input from interested parties
7 and State agencies and departments shall provide the consultant with
8 necessary information and assistance within their relative areas of expertise.

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

14 * * * Workforce Recruitment; Military Base Recruitment * * *

15 Sec. 14. RELOCATION SUPPORT SYSTEM

16 (a) The Department of Labor shall:

17 (1) collaborate with key employers and nongovernmental organizations
18 to ensure that appropriate expertise is available to program staff and
19 individuals looking to enter Vermont's job market, through referrals or other
20 information sharing mechanisms;

1 (2)(A) coordinate available information for each region that includes
2 labor market information, housing and education information, recreation
3 information, and other relevant resources; and

4 (B) make the information easily accessible for interested individuals
5 to assist in aspects of preliminary decision making; and

6 (3) convene regional, multidisciplinary teams that:

7 (A) comprise partners with expertise from relevant sectors, including
8 housing, transportation, education, health, child care, recreation, and economic
9 development; and

10 (B) provide community-level knowledge, support, and services to
11 best meet the needs of prospective employees.

12 (b) State agencies and State-funded programs shall coordinate with the
13 Department to ensure that services and information that could assist a person in
14 relocating to Vermont are made available through an integrated, employee-
15 centered system.

16 Sec. 15. ON-BASE RECRUITMENT PILOT PROGRAM

17 (a) The Department of Labor shall work with the Vermont National Guard
18 and public and private employers in health care, construction, manufacturing,
19 business services, transportation, and human services to pilot an on-base
20 recruitment effort that encourages service members separating from military
21 service to relocate to Vermont.

1 (b) The Department shall coordinate with the Agency of Commerce and
2 Community Development to direct available marketing and outreach funds to
3 support targeted recruitment events held on military bases.

4 (c) The Department shall provide limited organizational support to
5 employers interested in participating in private-pay travel to military bases in
6 conjunction with other employers, representatives of the Vermont National
7 Guard, and State officials for the purpose of promoting employment and
8 relocation to Vermont.

9 (d) Not more than \$25,000.00 in General Funds may be allocated to the
10 Department to support staff time, supplies, necessary travel, and other related
11 costs.

12 (e) On or before January 15, 2020, the Department shall report to the
13 House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on
14 Appropriations and to the Senate Committees on Economic Development,
15 Housing and General Affairs and on Appropriations concerning
16 implementation and outcomes of this pilot program.

17 * * * Workforce Training and Credentialing; Nurse Educators;

18 New Americans; Workers with Barriers to Employment * * *

19 Sec. 16. OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; REPORT

20 (a) The Office of Professional Regulation, in consultation with the
21 Vermont Board of Nursing, Vermont State Colleges, the University of

1 Vermont, Norwich University, and other interested stakeholders, shall review
2 statutory, regulatory, and accreditation standards for nursing programs within
3 the State and nationally with the purpose of identifying barriers to recruitment
4 and retention of nurse educators in nursing education programs.

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

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

14 Sec. 17. STUDY; WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR
15 REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS, AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

16 (a) Creation. There is created a task force on workforce development
17 opportunities for refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers living in Vermont.

18 (b) Membership. The task force shall be composed of the following
19 members:

20 (1) the State Refugee Coordinator;

- 1 (2) a member with expertise in new American workforce development
- 2 issues appointed by the Agency of Human Services Secretary;
- 3 (3) the executive director of AALV or designee;
- 4 (4) the president of Vermont’s U.S. Committee for Refugees and
- 5 Immigrants or designee;
- 6 (5) the director of CVOEO’s financial futures program or designee;
- 7 (6) a representative of Burlington’s Community Economic Development
- 8 Office’s Sustainability, Housing, and Economic Development department;
- 9 (7) two Vermont employers, one of whom is engaged in business in the
- 10 agricultural sector and one of whom is engaged in business in another sector,
- 11 with experience hiring and cultivating new American workers appointed by the
- 12 Chair of the State Workforce Development Board;
- 13 (8) two members of Vermont’s refugee, immigrant, and immigrant
- 14 communities, one appointed by each of AALV and Vermont’s U.S. Committee
- 15 for Refugees and Immigrants;
- 16 (9) an appointee of the University of Vermont with research expertise in
- 17 refugee and New American migration in Vermont;
- 18 (10) a member appointed by the Vermont Migrant Education Project;
- 19 (11) a member appointed by the Community Asylum Seekers Project;
- 20 and
- 21 (12) a member appointed by Rutland Welcomes.

1 (c) Powers and duties. The task force shall study the following:

2 (1) recommendations identified in relevant studies and reports;

3 (2) cultural competency support needed in Vermont’s employment
4 settings;

5 (3) training, apprenticeship, and mentorship needs and opportunities;

6 (4) tools and supports needed for refugees to effectively apply
7 preexisting educational and professional credentials in Vermont settings; and

8 (5) additional supports needed to ensure employment opportunities,
9 including child care and transportation.

10 (d) Meetings.

11 (1) The State Refugee Coordinator shall call the first meeting of the task
12 force to occur on or before September 1, 2019.

13 (2) The task force shall select a chair from among its members at the
14 first meeting.

15 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

16 (4) The task force shall meet not more than six times and shall cease to
17 exist on January 15, 2020.

18 (e) Report. On or before December 1, 2019, the task force shall report to
19 the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on
20 Government Operations, and on Appropriations and to the Senate Committees
21 on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on Government

1 Operations, and on Appropriations concerning its findings, recommendations
2 for proposed legislation, and investments in order of priority.

3 Sec. 18. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR; FIDELITY BONDS

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

9 Sec. 19. REGISTRY OF EMPLOYERS

10 (a) The Department of Labor shall create and maintain on its website a
11 registry of employers who accept applications and are willing to hire workers
12 with barriers to employment, including workers in recovery from addiction and
13 workers with past incarceration.

14 (b) On or before January 15, 2020, the Department shall report to the
15 House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on
16 Appropriations and to the Senate Committees on Economic Development,
17 Housing and General Affairs and on Appropriations concerning the creation of
18 the registry and the extent the registry assisted employers and employees with
19 barriers to employment.

1 Sec. 20. CORRECTIONS; WORKFORCE TRAINING

2 (a)(1) On or before October 10, 2019, the Department of Corrections and
3 the Department of Labor shall execute a memorandum of understanding
4 regarding a standardized program of education and training for all new and
5 existing probation and parole officers that includes components related to:

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

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

12 (2) The Departments shall provide written notice when the
13 memorandum of understanding is executed to the chairs of the House
14 Committees on Commerce and Economic Development and on Corrections
15 and Institutions and to the Senate Committees on Economic Development,
16 Housing and General Affairs and on Institutions.

17 (3) The Departments shall ensure that all incumbent probation and
18 parole officers receive the education and training under the program on or
19 before July 1, 2020.

20 (b) The Department of Corrections shall collaborate with the Department of
21 Motor Vehicles and other partners as necessary to ensure that a sentenced

1 inmate is provided with at least one form of government-issued identification,
2 not to include an inmate identification card, upon release from incarceration.

3 (c)(1) On or before August 15, 2019, the Departments of Corrections and
4 Labor shall report to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee
5 concerning the Departments' progress towards developing the memorandum of
6 understanding as required by this section.

7 (2) On or before December 15, 2020, the Departments of Corrections
8 and Labor shall report to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic
9 Development and on Corrections and Institutions and to the Senate
10 Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on
11 Institutions concerning the implementation of this section.

12 * * * Vermont Talent Pipeline Management Project * * *

13 Sec. 21. VERMONT TALENT PIPELINE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

14 (a) The Vermont Talent Pipeline Management Project brings value to
15 Vermont's workforce and economic development initiatives by:

16 (1) convening employers by sector to create industry specific
17 partnerships and employer informed initiatives aimed at addressing skill gaps;

18 (2) engaging education partners to develop and align programs that meet
19 employer and incumbent needs; and

1 (3) highlighting policy, practice, and funding challenges that prevent
2 access to training or that inhibit advancement of workers within high need
3 areas of Vermont’s economy.

4 (b) The Vermont Talent Pipeline Management Project is encouraged to
5 collaborate in Vermont’s workforce and economic development systems by:

6 (1) organizing, convening, and maintaining employer collaboratives in
7 key sectors of the economy, identified by available labor market information;

8 (2) broadly sharing competency and credential requirements learned
9 from employer collaboratives, and specifically engaging training and education
10 partners in the development of new or modification of existing programs; and

11 (3) using a continuous improvement process to ensure employer needs
12 are met.

13 * * * International Trade and Development * * *

14 Sec. 22. INTERNATIONAL TRADE, EDUCATION, AND CULTURAL
15 EXCHANGE

16 On or before December 15, 2019, the Agency of Commerce and
17 Community Development shall review and report to the House Committee on
18 Commerce and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on
19 Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs on effective
20 mechanisms to collaborate with regional partners and form formal partnerships
21 that will promote international trade, as well as educational and cultural

1 exchanges, between and among Vermont, the New England states, and foreign
2 nations.

3 * * * Agency of Commerce and Community Development;
4 Structure and Organization * * *

5 Sec. 23. AGENCY OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY

6 DEVELOPMENT; STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION;
7 REPORT

8 On or before January 15, 2020, the Secretary of Commerce and Community
9 Development shall review and report to the House Committees on Commerce
10 and Economic Development and on Appropriations and to the Senate
11 Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs and on
12 Appropriations concerning one or more proposals to amend the structure and
13 organization of the Agency in order to enhance its ability to achieve its
14 purposes and perform its duties.

15 * * * Ski Tramways * * *

16 Sec. 24. 31 V.S.A. § 707 is amended to read:

17 § 707. REGISTRATION AND FEES

18 * * *

19 (e)(1) All fees collected under this section shall be credited to a special
20 fund for the Department to be expended for carrying out its duties under this

1 chapter and may also be expended as provided pursuant to subdivision (2) of
2 this subsection.

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

7 * * * State Workforce Development Board * * *

8 Sec. 25. 10 V.S.A. § 541a(d) is amended to read:

9 (d) Operation of Board.

10 (1) Member representation.

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

15 (B) Members of the State Board or their designees who represent
16 organizations, agencies, or other entities shall be individuals with optimum
17 policymaking authority or relevant subject matter expertise within the
18 organizations, agencies, or entities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (5) Quorum meetings; voting.

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

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

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

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

15 (6) Reimbursement.

16 (A) Legislative members of the Board shall be entitled to
17 compensation and expenses as provided in 2 V.S.A. § 406.

18 (B) Unless otherwise compensated by his or her employer for
19 performance of his or her duties on the Board, a nonlegislative member of the
20 Board shall be eligible for per diem compensation of \$50.00 per day for
21 attendance at a meeting of the Board, and for reimbursement of his or her

1 necessary expenses, which shall be paid through funds available for that
2 purpose under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014.

3 (7) Conflict of interest. A member of the Board shall not:

4 (A) vote on a matter under consideration by the Board:

5 (i) regarding the provision of services by the member, or by an
6 entity that the member represents; or

7 (ii) that would provide direct financial benefit to the member or the
8 immediate family of the member; or

9 (B) engage in any activity that the Governor determines constitutes a
10 conflict of interest as specified in the State Plan required under 29 U.S.C. §
11 3112 or 3113.

12 (8) Sunshine provision. The Board shall make available to the public, on
13 a regular basis through open meetings, information regarding the activities of
14 the Board, including information regarding the State Plan adopted pursuant to
15 29 U.S.C. § 3112 or 3113 and prior to submission of the State Plan to the U.S.
16 Secretary of Labor, information regarding membership, and, on request,
17 minutes of formal meetings of the Board.

18 * * * Appropriations * * *

19 Sec. 26. APPROPRIATIONS

20 (a) In fiscal year 2020, the amount of \$1,865,000.00 is appropriated from
21 the General Fund to the following recipients for the purposes specified:

1 (1) \$450,000.00 to the Agency of Commerce and Community

2 Development as follows:

3 (A) \$225,000.00 for economic development marketing pursuant to its
4 authority in 3 V.S.A. § 2476(c) to execute the State’s core Economic
5 Development Marketing Plan through paid, owned, and earned media, utilizing
6 technology, data, and analysis tools; and

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

9 (i) identifying target audiences;

10 (ii) targeting through digital and social media; and

11 (iii) implementing strategies that convert visitors to residents and
12 awarding grants for regional partnerships to help recruitment efforts at the
13 local and regional levels;

14 (2) \$1,215,000.00 to the Department of Labor as follows:

15 (A) \$275,000.00 to implement a relocation support system and
16 provide services pursuant to Sec. 14 of this act; and

17 (B) \$940,000.00 for workforce development and training as follows:

18 (i) \$350,000.00 for grants to provide weatherization training
19 pursuant to Sec. 10 of this act;

20 (ii) \$50,000.00 for a grant to the Community College of Vermont
21 to purchase equipment to provide robotics training at its Rutland location; and

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE