

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Referred to Committee on

3 Date:

4 Subject: Education; Vermont Technical College; career technical education

5 centers; study; **pilot program**

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the

7 Vermont Technical College to study, **and conduct a pilot program on**, how to

8 best deliver Vermont Technical College certificate and degree programs at

9 career technical education centers in Vermont.

10 An act relating to delivering Vermont Technical College certificate and
11 degree programs at career technical education centers in Vermont

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

13 Sec. 1. DELIVERY OF VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

14 CERTIFICATE AND DEGREE PROGRAMS AT CAREER

15 TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTERS IN VERMONT; STUDY;

16 **PILOT PROGRAM**

17 (a) Findings and purpose:

18 (1) Vermont has as a goal of 70 percent of the Vermont workforce

19 having a credential of value by 2025;

1 (2) most of the current and future jobs will require some education
2 beyond high school;

3 (3) approximately 40 percent of Vermont high school graduates do not
4 pursue education beyond high school;

5 (4) a growing percentage of the Vermont workforce is in need of skills
6 attainment or upgrade;

7 (5) college has become increasingly less affordable to Vermonters;

8 (6) Vermont Technical College (VTC) and Vermont’s career technical
9 education centers (CTE centers) have expressed a desire for a stronger
10 partnership to foster pathways for students attending CTE centers and high
11 schools to attend college; and

12 (7) the General Assembly desires to initiate assessment and planning for
13 the delivery of accredited college education at CTE centers in Vermont as a
14 means of enabling more Vermonters to access quality college-level technical
15 education that will lead to well-paying jobs and careers.

16 (b) Study by VTC.

17 (1) VTC shall study how to best deliver all or a portion of fully
18 accredited VTC certificate and degree programs at CTE centers in Vermont,
19 with the goals of:

20 (A) enabling more students to access education beyond high school;

21 (B) providing pathways to VTC;

- 1 (C) enabling more students to obtain a degree from VTC; and
- 2 (D) meeting economic development and workforce education needs.

3 (2) The study shall examine the following:

4 (A) existing models around the United States or internationally that
5 deliver all or a portion of accredited college programs at high schools or
6 secondary technical centers, with a special focus on rural regions and regions
7 with declining populations;

8 (B) appropriate VTC programs to deliver;

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

12 (D) how to meet accreditation standards and the required approvals
13 by accrediting bodies;

14 (E) funding models, including costs for students, institutions, and
15 adults;

16 (F) program scheduling; and

17 (G) resources needed for the best financial and academic outcomes
18 for students and all institutions involved.

19 (c) Pilot program by VTC. VTC shall conduct a pilot program to provide a
20 locally convenient and financially affordable option to high school students
21 and adult learners who want, while still enrolled with their CTE centers, to also

1 enroll in a high-demand, high-skill, industry-specific associate degree offering.
2 VTC shall collaborate with the CTE centers and receive administrative and
3 technical support from the Agency of Education in conducting the pilot
4 program. The pilot program shall commence on July 1, 2019 with the goal of
5 awarding associate degrees in the fall of 2020. In structuring the pilot
6 program, VTC shall consider:

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

9 (2) existing models around the United States or internationally that
10 deliver all or a portion of accredited college programs at high schools or
11 secondary technical centers, with a special focus on rural regions and regions
12 with declining populations;

13 (3) sustainable funding models, including costs for students, institutions,
14 and adults;

15 (4) the financial risks of programmatic and funding model changes, with
16 the goals of not negatively impacting the accreditation status or the financial
17 status of any institution, and

18 (5) management of class scheduling and CTE partnerships to assure
19 access and programmatic success.

20 (d) Reports. On or before December 15, 2019, VTC shall submit a written
21 report to the House and Senate Committees on Education and the State Board

1 of Education with its findings and recommendations from the study required
2 under subsection (b) of this section and the pilot program required under
3 subsection (c) of this section. On or before September 15, 2020, VTC shall
4 submit a supplemental written report to the House and Senate Committees on
5 Education and the State Board of Education with its findings and
6 recommendations from the pilot program required under subsection (c) of this
7 section.

8 (e) Appropriation. The sum of \$[200,000.00] is appropriated for fiscal year
9 2019 from the [General Fund] to VTC to provide funding for the study
10 required under subsection (b) of this section and the pilot program required
11 under subsection (c) of this section. VTC may apply funding appropriated
12 under this section to retain appropriate expertise to assist it in structuring and
13 conducting the pilot program.

14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on passage.